

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

The National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne concluded by issuing a unanimous final statement reaffirming the cease-fire decision and calling for the formation of a constituent committee to draft a future constitution for Lebanon. The committee will submit a report within 6 months and its 32 members will be chosen by President Amin al-Jumayyil in cooperation with the members of the National Dialogue Conference. The statement, broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, also called for a halt to all information campaigns and said the dialogue body will hold further consultations at the invitation of the president. As for the cease-fire, the conferees agreed to draw up a security plan based on separating the combatant forces, withdrawing heavy weapons, returning the Army to its barracks, and entrusting responsibility for security to the Internal Security Forces, which will be expanded with conscripts and Army reservists. A higher military and political committee under President al-Jumayyil will be established to implement the security plan.

Although the final statement did not mention the formation of a new government, sources close to the Lebanese Front cited by AFP disclosed that the conferees recommended forming a national unity government. Nevertheless, there was no indication that agreement was reached on the composition of such a government, AFP said, and the "grim" faces of the departing delegates confirmed that the conference had made less progress than hoped. The final session of the conference followed intensive efforts to avert collapse as the negotiations reached deadlock and several participants threatened to leave, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon and MENA. Blaming former President Sulayman Franjiyah for the conference's failure to reach agreement over constitutional changes, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt said it was "a miserable day" for Lebanon and would lead to "thousands of new victims," KUNA reported. Junblatt also said he would prefer to negotiate in the future with the Christian military leaders — The Lebanese Forces Command — rather than with the two Lebanese Front leaders, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Junblatt's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio subsequently blamed President al-Jumayyil for the conference's failure to agree on constitutional reforms.

Meanwhile, in a press interview reported by Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon, former President Franjiyah confirmed his view that the role of the National Salvation Front (NSF) has finished, though he said this does not mean that he has joined the Lebanese Front with which he still disagrees on fundamental issues. Contending that his opposition to changing the presidential powers is not based on sectarianism but is for the sake of Lebanon's unity, Franjiyah accused his former NSF allies of reneging on an agreement to promote political reform through the existing Constitution.

In Beirut, the security situation was relatively calm on 21 March despite intermittent gunfire in several areas, Beirut radio reported. Three people were killed and 10 others were injured in shelling and sniping on 20 March, according to AFP. Beirut radio also noted "indications" of an imminent IDF withdrawal from Sidon to the Az-Zahrani River area, and Voice of Lebanon radio announced that a "senior Israeli figure" arrived in the Al-Awwali region early on 21 March.

Israel

The Knesset will discuss proposals to hold early elections in a plenary session on 22 March, IDF Radio reported. Leaders of the Likud coalition decided to establish a committee to fix a date for elections, Jerusalem radio said, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is expected to support holding them at the beginning of September. After meeting with Shamir, TAMI faction leader Aharon Abu-Hatzera confirmed that the prime minister had rejected TAMI's proposal for elections within 45 days, but added that it was decided to hold further talks on the subject. In his remarks, which were broadcast by IDF Radio, Abu-Hatzera also denied reports that his faction's demand for early elections was in response to the Finance Ministry's refusal to guarantee loans to a Swiss millionaire closely connected with TAMI. Meanwhile, another TAMI leader warned that if the ruling coalition prevents elections from being held shortly, TAMI will consider submitting a no-confidence motion against the government, Jerusalem radio reported. As for the opposition Alignment, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres indicated that he will make negotiations with Jordan a main issue in the election campaign, asserting in remarks broadcast by the radio that such negotiations should be unconditional and would not have to be based on the Camp David accords.

Egypt-Libya-Sudan

The AWACS planes received from the United States will "mainly overfly Egyptian territory," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced in remarks cited by MENA. It has not yet been decided whether these planes also will overfly Sudanese territory, the president added. Regarding Libyan military activities in the border areas, Mubarak emphasized that Egypt is "vigilant" and ready for any contingency. Under no circumstances would Egypt allow any border violations, he affirmed. When asked if a similar response could also be applied to further provocations against Sudan, Mubarak replied that "this applies to both areas." Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in an interview reported by ANSA, likewise issued a "severe warning" to Libya to stop "meddling in Sudanese affairs." For every action, one must have the "necessary and militarily proportional deterrent," he added. JANA, however, described Mubarak's statement on the mission of the AWACS as part of a "barefaced formula" in the Egyptian-American "treacherous decision to launch aggression" against Libya.

Meanwhile, a Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau source cited by JANA said that his country had "no knowledge" of a U.S. memorandum concerning the air raid against Sudan. Libya nevertheless rejects "in form and content" the "provocative warnings" issued through the U.S. State Department spokesman, the source added.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi MIG-23 was shot down over the Hoveyze region by Iranian forces on 20 March, the Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported. Exchanges of fire continued in other operational sectors with Iranian troops maintaining "fire superiority" in the southern fronts, the communique added. The Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio on 20 March likewise reported sporadic fighting along the war fronts. Iraqi helicopter gunships carried out "daring and successful" attacks against Iranian positions east of Basra and east of the Tigris, inflicting "heavy losses" including the destruction of four troop concentrations.

Kuwait

A number of new naval units soon will join the Kuwaiti Navy in order to "protect the country's territorial waters," the defense minister announced in a statement cited by KUNA. The minister noted that forms ascertaining the technical, medical, and engineering capabilities available in the event of a total mobilization of the country "in service of the war effort and emergencies" recently were distributed to workers in the private and public sectors by the Ministry of Defense.

Arab-U.S. Relations

"Repercussions" from the fact that relations between the United States and countries in the Middle East currently are "built solely around Israel and take no account whatsoever" of the Arab populations are continually getting worse, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi wrote in an open letter to the U.S. President, reported by *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*. While expressing "deep concern" over threats to the positive links between the United States and the Arab nations, he warned against any further deterioration in these relations.

Jordan

Recent remarks concerning the U.S. political situation were "not meant to be interpreted as an attack meaning an end to the road vis-a-vis the Arab-U.S. dialogue," King Husayn stated in a BBC interview reported by Amman television. It was simply an account of the "real situation as I see it" in view of the degree of influence attained by Israel and the Jewish lobby in the United States. U.S. credibility has reached "its worse state" with regard to the Arabs due largely to the U.S. Administration's "impotence" to stand and defend its proposals in the face of "Zionist influence," the king reiterated. The Middle East situation has been aggravated because "nobody is ready to enter into negotiations with the United States as long as it is biased toward Israel," the king added in a statement cited by Radio Monte Carlo.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Arab League's Klibi Addresses Open Letter to Reagan
PM211119 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
 20 Mar 84 p1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Tunis bureau report: "Open Letter From Klibi to Reagan: Stop Your Bias in Favor of Israel Before It Is Too Late"]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has addressed an open letter to President Ronald Reagan criticizing U.S. policy and warning against any bias in favor of Israel. ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy of the letter. The text follows:

Mr President,

I feel it is my duty, Mr President, as Arab League secretary general to address to you this letter which is dictated upon me by both my responsibilities and my desire that no deterioration in the relations between the Arab countries and the United States should take place.

What I am conveying to you, Mr President, is a reflection of the growing official feelings and the popular feelings that are becoming stronger among citizens of all the Arab countries, feelings of great concern over the present situation in the Middle East and the dangers threatening all the positive relationships that have been built between your country and the Arab countries.

We have always as a nation and as states looked forward to deepening relations with the American people in view of their qualities, their belief in values, and their heroic struggle for freedom.

Those values related to the freedom of peoples, their dignity, and their right to independence and sovereignty were among the most important advocated by U.S. leaders and thinkers up to the beginning of this century. These values have been appreciated and admired by the whole world.

However, we cannot but feel deep anxiety because of the U.S. attitude biased in favor of Israel not only at the expense of the Palestinian people but also at the expense of the relations between the Arab peoples and the American people as well as of the principles of international law and values of justice. We are not here referring only to the absolute U.S. political and economic support for Israel in a manner enabling Israel to continue its aggression against the Arab countries undeterred and to turn its back on UN resolutions, but we also refer to the U.S. view of the United States' relations with the area. This view, as has become apparent to us and even to the U.S. allies in Europe, is based on one single axis, which is Israel, without any regard to 158 million Arabs and 22 Arab states that have constantly stressed their desire to establish relations of amity and understanding with the United States.

The negative effects and impact of this attitude are daily exacerbating and we are afraid that it might reach a degree that could bring about a wide and deep change in the Arab political attitude toward the United States.

Allow me, Mr President, in addition to the above, to refer to the question of the city of Jerusalem. This city, which is holy to the three heavenly religions and holy to the Arabs and Muslims not only because it is part of their land and soil but also because it is one of the two kiblas toward which Muslims everywhere turn — this city, which has a distinctive characteristic which it has preserved through history, is today culturally, demographically, and politically threatened. You would recall the burning of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the continuous Israeli attempts to destroy these holy places through various tricks and means, which constitutes a blatant violation of UN resolutions and the Geneva agreements as well as defiance of the sentiments of the whole world community, which expressed its absolute rejection of the Israeli measures to obtain legislation endorsing regarding Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. You would also recall, Mr President, that on 20 July 1980 the Security Council adopted Resolution 478 which provides for all the administrative steps taken by Israel regarding Jerusalem to be considered null and void and requiring abrogation and states that they constitute a violation of international law. The Security Council also asked all the countries that have established diplomatic legations in Jerusalem to withdraw them immediately.

I am addressing you, Mr President, hoping that the United States, which realizes the risks of disregarding international resolutions and the principles of international law, will not take steps that would be contrary to the principles and values in which the American people believe and will not allow the transfer of its embassy to Jerusalem.

There is no doubt, Mr President, that you will view with interest the future of Arab-U.S. relations and the grave situation in the Middle East and will therefore reconsider these issues that seriously affect not only peace in this area but also world security as a consequence. At a time when you will no doubt agree with me that it is one of the basic interests of the United States that deep relations of understanding and friendship be established between it and the Arab countries, I hope that you will also agree with me that the achievement of this can be realized only through the adoption of a U.S. attitude capable of making an effective contribution to the achievement of just peace, not the peace that Israel wants to impose on the Arabs.

I assure you once again, Mr President, of the desire of all the Arab countries to salvage their relations with the United States and prevent a deep rift occurring between the two sides that might be difficult to mend. It is from this premise, the premise of desire to strengthen Arab-U.S. friendship, that I have addressed this open letter to you.

Klibi Interviewed on Talks With Mitterrand
JN170900 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT
 17 Mar 84

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand yesterday received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Klibi told our radio that during the meeting, which came following the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad, three issues were discussed: Lebanon, the Palestinian problem, and the Iraqi-Iranian war. In this regard, Klibi says that he endeavors to muster a

unified European stand. Here is Chedli Klibi answering questions by our correspondent Kamal Tarabayh:

[Begin recording] [Klibi] I drew the president's attention to the fact that this war is continuing because some sides are feeding it. Some of these sides are within the European community. I pointed out the serious proportions that matters in the region will take if this feeding continues and if the European sides do not work toward stopping the war and realizing peaceful settlement between the two neighboring states.

I briefed the president on the work of the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting in Baghdad and the resolutions which the ministers issued after their meeting.

[Tarabayh] Iran has announced its rejection of the Arab foreign ministers' call for a cease-fire. Do you think that the Arab states will carry out their threats by reconsidering [sentence incomplete].

[Klibi interrupting] We will continue our efforts and endeavors to convince the Iranian of the need to accept peace between the two neighboring countries because it is the only solution that guarantees strength and prosperity for Iran, Iraq, and the entire region. [end recording]

'Arafat Sends Message of Thanks to Mubarak

LD200947 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0734 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Mar (KUNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here last night that he sent a letter to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak concerning recent conditions in the area and thanked him for Egypt's position "toward the Palestine cause and its leadership." 'Arafat was speaking at a press conference held in Khartoum, during which he spoke of his talks with Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, in Khartoum on ways of ensuring the success of the International Conference in support of the Palestine People, which AAPSO is seeking to convene in Cairo toward the end of March.

He said that there was a Zionist-imperialist occupation plan aimed at the balkanization of the Arab region. He added: "It is our duty now not to permit this sectarian plot to succeed in Lebanon."

He added: "There should be a responsible and serious move on all levels so that we can face up to this plot. This demands an end to the current division within the Arab ranks."

DFLP Source Condemns 'Arafat Statements on Sudan

JN191953 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — An official information source in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has affirmed that Yasir 'Arafat's statements in support of Numayri's regime in Sudan constitute a flagrant violation of the PLO Charter and the PNC decisions and serve Numayri's regime, which rotates in

the orbit of imperialist policy. The source strongly condemned 'Arafat's statements and affirmed full and firm support for the Sudanese nationalist and progressive forces against the agent regime of Numayri. The source also condemned Sudan's threats against Libya and Ethiopia.

PNC Official on Talks with Soviet Ambassador

GF201758 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic 19 Mar 84 p 1

[Ahmad 'Uthman dispatch]

[Excerpt] Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the PNC Foreign Relations Committee, has stressed that there is more than one fraternal and friendly country seeking to normalize relations between the PLO and Syria.

Al-Hasan informed *AL-ANBA* that all the mediation efforts in this regard are based on two essential principles to which the PLO adheres. They are first, Syria's noninterference in the internal affairs of the PLO, and second, respecting the independence of Palestinian national decisionmaking and adhering to it.

Khalid al-Hasan commented on his meeting yesterday with Pogos Akopov, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait during which they discussed the steps that the Soviet Union will undertake to heal the breach between the PLO and Syria. He said that relations between the Soviet Union and the PLO are not just restricted to mediation efforts with Syria.

He added that during the meeting, they discussed all aspects of Soviet-Palestinian relations. He said the issue the Soviet Union's mediation between Syria and the PLO was one of the items which he discussed with the Soviet ambassador.

Khalid al-Hasan described the recent Jordanian monarch's statements in which he bitterly attacked the U.S. policy in the region as "a true expression of the feeling of every Palestinian and Arab and everyone who opposes U.S. domination over the region and its hostile policy against the Arab people and the interests of the Arab nation."

The Palestinian official affirmed that the Palestinian-Jordanian talks will continue in the future with the aim of reaching a joint Palestinian-Jordanian working formula and of moving on all levels in view of the current circumstances.

Palestinian Sources on Status of Relations With Syria

GF191935 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] In statement to *AL-QABAS*, well-informed Palestinian sources have stated that positive results were attained during talks held between a Palestinian official and Syrian officials in Damascus. They said these results will appear in the realm of the Syrian-Palestinian relations within the next few days. It has been said that Damascus has expressed the readiness to receive a Fatah delegation despite Syria's insistence on dealing only with the movement's Central Committee and not with Yasir 'Arafat [Abu 'Ammar]. The sources said that Syria will pressure the

Palestinian legitimate institutions to elect a new Palestinian leadership and that Syria is still insisting on not dealing with Abu 'Ammar in the event he is reelected.

AL-QABAS has learned that a decision has been reached to initially hold a Central Committee meeting on 23 March, on the condition that the committee holds an all-member meeting to discuss this fateful issue. The Palestinian sources said that the lines of disagreement between Damascus and the Palestinian leadership are considered to be minor and that these lines of disagreement revolve around three issues: The Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, relations with Egypt, and the initiatives already proposed. The sources believe that agreement upon these issues is not difficult. The difficult and complicated problem is Syria's refusal to deal with 'Arafat. The road would be opened for 'Arafat to visit Damascus if Saudi Arabia could manage to remove this obstacle. Saudi Arabia is now striving to accomplish this.

PLO Envoy Discusses Relations With Egypt, Iran, Libya
LD202136 Kuwait KUNA in English 1910 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Belgrade, March 20 (KUNA) — PLO representative in Belgrade Saqur Busaysu said Tuesday the more Egypt distances itself from the Camp David accord with Israel, the more the PLO will strengthen its ties with Cairo.

Busaysu, in an interview with KUNA, urged Arab countries to help Egyptian nationalist forces persuade the Cairo government to relinquish the pact with Israel.

The Palestinian people, he said, are looking forward to the return of Egypt to the Arab fold, adding that "distinguished and historic ties between the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples are too strong to be cut by a ruler."

Asked about the PLO's relations with Iran, Busaysu said, "We were first enthusiastic about the Iranian revolution but were later surprised to see the new Iranian leadership unveil its expansionist intentions at the expense of an Arab country." He called on "the brethren in Iran" to heed peace calls and stop their war with Iraq which runs counter to the interests of the two Muslim nations.

The PLO representative said the PLO would improve its relations with Libya "once the Libyan regime ceases to interfere in the internal affairs of the Palestinian revolution."

Busaysu, who was talking on the eve of the week of solidarity with the Palestinian people here, voiced hope that the PLO will soon "recover" as the resistance groups are earnestly trying to narrow their differences.

Lebanon's Qulaylat Meets Dissident PLO Members in Libya
NC210836 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] In Tripoli, Libya, a meeting has been held between Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement

— Al-Murabitun] and Brother Abu Salih, commander of the uprising in the Fatah movement; Brothers Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Abu Khalid al-'Amlī, members of the uprising command; and Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP — General Command. During the meeting, which lasted for many hours, the discussions dealt with political and security developments in the Arab arena, particularly in the Lebanese arena. They also discussed ways and means to confront the conspiracy to which the Middle East and Lebanese and Palestinian issues are being subjected.

It is worth noting that Brother Qulaylat is continuing his official visit as head of a delegation to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah at the invitation of Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution.

FAO Conference Concludes Meetings 15 March
GF161431 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] The 17th Session of the FAO Near East Regional Conference concluded its meetings at the Aden Hotel today. Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, YSP Central Committee candidate member and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, and Brother Salah Jum'ah, assistant secretary general for Near East affairs, attended. The conferees sent a cable to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, thanking him for his support and hospitality which led to the success of the conference.

A report adopted by the conference was approved at the final session. The delegates contributed some valuable comments on the report and introduced minor amendments to it.

In a concluding speech Muhammad Sulayman Nasir referred to the importance of the resolutions and the recommendations adopted by the conference. He said that they will greatly contribute to development and will crystalize the work of the FAO.

Brother Salah Jum'ah thanked Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and other PDRY officials for bringing about the conference's success. He added that the success of the conference surpassed all expectations. The report included the recommendations and resolutions to strengthen the duties of area countries in various agricultural fields including education, training, and [word indistinct] strategic policy of agricultural [word indistinct], and the development of agricultural industries in the region.

Baghdad Voice of PLO on Resistance Activities

Military Operation in Gaza
JN151717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] A group of our fighters operating inside the occupied homeland has carried out a new operation against the Zionist occupation forces in the city of occupied Gaza. The group attacked a Zionist military patrol near the municipality of Gaza

using hand grenades. Reports from the occupied homeland said that the Zionist forces cordoned off the area and launched a large-scale arrest campaign in search of those who carried out the attack.

An-Nabbatiyah 16 Mar Attack

*JN162123 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
16 Mar 84*

[Text] A group of Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance men carried out an attack today with machine guns and missiles on a Zionist military patrol near the town of An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. Eyewitnesses in Sidon said that Zionist soldiers immediately cordoned off the area of the attack. Losses inflicted on the invading forces from this attack are not known.

Attacks Near Sidon, An-Nabatiyah

*JN181757 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1613 GMT
18 Mar 84*

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese resistance men detonated remote-controlled explosive charges when a Zionist military patrol was passing on a road north of Sidon, destroying the patrol and killing or wounding all its members. The spokesman of the invasion forces admitted this operation and claimed that only one Israeli soldier was wounded. The spokesman added that its forces immediately cordoned off the areas in search of those who carried out the operation, but in vain. Another group of the resistance men attacked a Zionist military position near the town of An-Nabatiyah last night. The attack was carried out with machine guns and hand grenades, and resulted in destroying the position, and killing or wounding its occupants. Reports from southern Lebanon citing eyewitnesses said that Zionist ambulances were seen proceeding to the scene of the attack.

Attack in Al-Biq'a'

*JN191709 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
19 Mar 84*

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men attacked an Israeli military patrol that was passing near Kamid al-Lawz in Lebanon's Al-Biq'a' today. The men used rocket shells and machine guns in their attack, which resulted in destroying the Israeli patrol and killing or wounding its soldiers. Israeli radio admitted the attack and claimed that only one soldier was wounded and a vehicle was destroyed. It added that the Israeli forces combed the area in search of the attackers, who returned safely to their base.

Attack Near Sarafand

*JN201717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have detonated by remote control an explosive charge on a road near Sarafand in southern Lebanon while an Israeli military patrol was passing on that road. The explosion destroyed the patrol and

killed or wounded several Zionist soldiers. The Israeli forces command admitted this operation and claimed that only one Israeli soldier was killed and another was wounded. The command added that the Israeli forces waged a search campaign in the area looking for the attackers, who returned safely to base.

PLF Demands Release of Palestinian in Jordan

*JN180809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 18 Mar 84*

[Text] Damascus — The Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] has called on all the national, progressive forces as well as the Arab public opinion and the world organizations and bodies to intervene for the release of the Palestinian strugglers who are detained in the Al-Mahattah central prison in Amman. In a press statement, the PLF Central Committee said that 78 national strugglers from the various Palestinian resistance factions have recently declared an open hunger strike, demanding release.

In a memorandum, the detainees called on Arab and world public opinion to condemn the Jordanian regime's repressive and bloody practices against them. The PLF Central Committee strongly condemned the attitude of 'Arafat's treacherous leadership toward those Palestinian strugglers who are being tortured and persecuted within the hearing and sight of this leadership and with its approval.

New Palestinian Radio Attacks Jordanian Measures

*JN200927 (Clandestine) Palestinian Voice of National Unity
in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Mar 84*

[Text][Words indistinct] despite the propaganda clamor and the misleading reports which some have disseminated in the wake of the removal of Mudar Badran's government, which collapsed under the weight of the vile crimes it committed through the years against our Palestinian and Jordanian people, whether these are laborers, farmers, students, intellectuals, merchants, or artisans. Some of those who have linked their fate to the bandwagon of the capitulatory settlement — which can be nothing more than an imperialist-Zionist-reactionary settlement imposed on our Arab people, given that it will be the enemy's means for wresting from us more concessions in the interest of their schemes that will make us more subservient to their economy and will have tried to put the agent king above all classes and to dissociate him from the national and class struggle which is raging in Jordan. They have also tried to disassociate him from the government managing the regime's daily policy, which is based on continued oppression. They try to depict the repressive practices by this government, this minister, or that security official as individual acts.

Some of those belong to two sides; the first side which realizes this is not true but continues to carry out its suspect role in view of its despair, impotence, and connections with the organs of the Jordanian regime in exchange for some temporary gains and a few dinars; the second side is composed of people who have been deceived by the illusions disseminated by the rightists backed by the parties to the settlement. These illusions predict a national settlement and that the relinquishment of military struggle will

open the door for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The objective developments that took place in the Jordanian arena in the wake of the formation of the new repressive government under 'Ubaydat, the executioner and former official in charge of intelligence, comprised repressive measures against all sectors of the Jordanian society resulting in the victimization of scores of strugglers from the political, nationalist, progressive forces in Jordan and strugglers from the new Palestinian resistance movement. These developments highlight a fact which some have overlooked and others are trying to obscure and to forge in their attempt to continue their deception of the people. This fact, which has been repeated for the thousandth time before our people and strugglers, proves that the regime of King Husayn and the parasite ruling clique are only the symbols of terrorism which has become embodied in a regime. This fact, that the regime is a terrorist one, has been well known to us and to all the genuine strugglers for some time. It has been recorded by us in our public and secret documents, as this regime has historically been one of the conspirators and has directly contributed to the implementation of one of the vilest series of actions in the conspiracy to usurp Palestine. Some of those who until recently have been within our movement, the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, and who forgot the September massacre and granted a writ of exoneration to the killers of the 20,000 Palestinian nationalists and strugglers, regrettably are pursuing their erroneous course and are intentionally performing the role of midget agents, conspirators, and informers.

On the basis of reliable information, the recent campaign against our strugglers in particular and against the strugglers of the factions that belong to the new resistance in general, in addition to the strugglers of the Jordanian national movement, has taken place in the wake of an exchange of information and expertise between the security organs of Abu Az-Za'im ['Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah] and the Jordanian intelligence services. All this took place under the supervision of Hani al-Hasan and Khalil al-Wazir's deputy in charge of security affairs who had been entrusted with the mission of following up the implementation of the agreements between the two sides; agreements that were not restricted to coordination between the two sides on the issue of legislative elections to the stillborn Parliament. The two sides

worked for the liquidation of the staunch strugglers who are well known for their unwavering revolutionary principles and their unshakable faith; the strugglers who have devoted their life to continue revolution until victory and to fight the reactionary parties, as they are an indivisible part of the historical enemies of our glorious Arab nation.

The barbaric campaign of arrests that has been taking place in Jordan aims among other things to humiliate the strugglers whom the Zionists had failed in humiliating, and to contain the achievements scored by the Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian nationalist and progressive alliance over Lebanese territory — achievements that shattered the barrier of despair imposed by the imperialist organs, fleets, and multinational forces; despair imposed by Israel through its invasion in 1982, the reactionaries through their conspiratorial schemes, and the rightwing Palestinians through their policies of dispersing the strugglers into remote exiles. They all worked for years to entrench this despair in the minds of our revolutionary people.

Our militant movement, the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, while waging a struggle against the forces of capitulation, the Zionist enemy, and against U.S. imperialism warns the Jordanian regime, which is deeply involved in treason, as well as its agents, from playing havoc with the security and safety of the sons of our people in Jordan and their allies in the Jordanian national movement.

Our movement also warns all the agents who have sold out their honor and consciences, have bargained on our revolution, and have proclaimed their suspect connection to treasonous plans beginning with the Fes plan and ending with the Reagan plan. We tell them that the time for settling accounts will inevitably take place. He who lives will soon find out. It is a revolution until victory.

BAHRAIN

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ Views Omdurman Raid

GF191651 Manama WAKH in English 1505 GMT 19 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini daily *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* today expressed the hope that the Libyan-Sudanese crisis will not escalate because of Sudan's accusation that Libya was behind the recent air raid on the Sudanese city of Omdurman.

The paper recalled the last year's crisis between Egypt, Sudan and the United States on one hand and Libya on another hand because of reported Libyan plot against Sudan. The Arab states massed their troops in facing each other and the United States sent AWACS and aircraft carriers to the Libyan coast. The crisis left behind its tension between the three Arab states.

"Escalating or freezing the crisis between the two countries currently depend on the official American stand." The paper asked whether Washington will decide to send AWACS and aircraft carriers again or it will fear involvement in the new crisis in the year of election after the failure in Lebanon, the paper said. It pointed out that the Arab League is capable of containing the crisis between the two countries and even if they do not ask for a fact-finding committee and mediation.

The paper affirmed that the league should undertake this mission quickly in order to keep the crisis from turning in to a hotbed of new conflict draining Arab powers and resources.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Speaks on Iran-Iraq War

LD201414 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Speech by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and information, at 20 March session of National Assembly — read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Speaker, brother members of the National Assembly: Thank you for allowing me to deliver a brief statement about the efforts to end the bloody war between sister Iraq and her Muslim neighbor Iran, which has been going on for more than 3 years. Kuwait's aim in these efforts was to reach just solutions that would ensure that the rights of both sides are guaranteed and to establish goodneighborly relations in order that security and stability may prevail in the region for the well-being of the Arab and Islamic nation. Without doubt, we are all agreed about the tragic and grave nature of this war. We are unanimous in deeply feeling the pain of its outbreak and its continued escalation, and the many-sided dangers and alarming complications which it involves for the two warring countries and the region — and we are in its center and at the center of the world.

Brothers, our stand on this war has been clear right from the

start. We absolutely understand that there is no reason for its continuation, let alone for it being started. There are no problems between the two neighboring countries that are beyond solution if intentions are sincere and political will is available. There are international laws, charters and treaties and also legal channels through regional and world organizations that would serve, without weapons being the deciding factor. Moreover, as Muslims we have sufficient means of justice and magnanimity derived from our great book and the inspiration of our noble prophet that offer us the means of solution to any problem or difficulty. At the same time, we fully understand that there are regional and international reasons and complications that provide the conditions for the continuation and escalation of this bloody conflict.

The absence of Arab solidarity and the divisions we have been afflicted with, the break up and dismemberment and the split of Arab ranks in various directions, are probably among the most important factors in this tragedy and for its continuation. Kuwait — and I may be repeating myself here — realized the threatening dangers of the clouds of suspicion and doubt over relations between Iraq and Iran before September 1980. So we began bilateral contacts aimed at removing the causes of this tension which later led to military confrontation. These contacts were followed by consultations between his highness the amir of Kuwait and leaders of some of the friendly and sister countries, aimed at halting the war from the start and solving problems between the two sides through negotiations to ensure just rights and legitimacy to both sides. Naturally, we in the Arabian Gulf — and the war is taking place in our region between our brothers in sister Iraq and the Muslim neighbor in Iran — feel the enormity of the bloodshed and the waste of civil construction potentials. Therefore, when the GCC was established, the efforts exerted by Kuwait before the establishment of the Council gained forward momentum as a result of the council's efforts to end the war.

One of these efforts was the mission sent to Tehran and to Baghdad, of which I had the honor to be a member together with the honorable brother UAE minister of state for foreign affairs. As you all know, we visited Tehran and Baghdad. I can say that we were deeply satisfied with the readiness demonstrated by the brothers in Tehran and Baghdad to cooperate with our mission before a sudden change occurred. I wish to tell you that we in the GCC do not consider our mission to be over. We are still at Tehran's disposal if it believes continuation of this mission would be beneficial in serving the desired goal, that is, stopping the war.

Among the many and continuing efforts exerted by the GCC are the letters and the envoys sent by their majesties and highnesses, leaders of the countries of the region, to the leaders of friendly countries, particularly to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, appealing to them all to do all they can either outside the Security Council or in it to stop this war.

The GCC is a crucible in which the stance of the member-states were fused and became identical. We can say with total confidence that the Gulf stance on this war with all its dimensions and aspects, and the sincere striving to stop it is a united stance. Naturally, this united stance will not prevent the Gulf countries from continuing to individually exert all possible efforts. This

includes Kuwait's continued intense contacts with all world organizations, forces and countries, and also includes the latest message sent by his highness the amir to Mrs Indira Gandhi in her capacity as president of the nonaligned summit conference. In the message his highness urged her to exert further efforts by herself and by the movement to end the war.

Within the Arab framework, the third Arab summit conference in Fes, Morocco, in September 1982 provided an opportunity for our leaders to deal with this subject in its various aspects. Stances became clear and resolutions were adopted in light of those events. Moreover, the emergency meeting of the Council of the League of Arab states recently held at ministerial level in Baghdad represents a natural continuation and logical follow-up to what was agreed by the Arab countries at the Fes conference. Without doubt, the effective response and participation represented at that meeting reflects the great responsibility felt by the brothers at this stage of our history. The Baghdad meeting produced resolutions which included genuine emphasis of the peaceful and reconciliatory course by which Arab treatment of the war between Iraq and Iran is distinguished.

Without any doubt the committee set up by the latest Baghdad conference to follow up the implementation of that resolution will demonstrate this fact to us during its efforts to fulfill its mission. As is known, the committee is composed of the foreign ministers of Iraq, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Jordan, the Yemen Arab Republic and the general secretary of the Arab League. This committee is to hold its first meeting in Tunis at the end of this month.

The current Arab situation makes it incumbent upon us that we as Arabs have the supreme responsibility to work relentlessly and seriously to stop this human and material destruction. This will only happen if we rise above the level of peripheral disputes to the peak of pan-Arab responsibility and provide conditions for the rise of unified ranks and genuine solidarity that will take us above all the [word indistinct] obstacles. The fate of our nation is being threatened by dangers from all sides. A solution is possible; it lies in our own hands whenever will is unified and the determination becomes sincere. Without any doubt if the provisions of the Charter of the League of Arab States and the provisions of the Joint Arab Defense Treaty and the rest of the treaties and Arab charters had had the chance to be genuinely and practically applied, our Arab nation would have been able to surmount many obstacles it faced in its haphazard march, it would have been spared many slippery slopes and it would have been saved a great deal of the blood of its sons and the wasted potentials of its peoples to build its present and future.

Islamically, the Third Islamic Summit Conference, held in Mecca and At-Ta'if, responded to the proposal put forward by Kuwait in partnership with some other Islamic countries regarding the establishment of a committee to be composed of some leaders of the Islamic countries seeking to mediate an end to this war. This committee, chaired by the great African leader brother President Ahmed Sekou Toure, exerted relentless efforts towards this goal.

The latest Islamic conference in Casablanca has extended the mission of this committee. The Nonaligned Movement has begun

to respond in an increasingly noticeable manner to the call for continued work to end this war, since this movement, represented by its various meetings and its present chairman, Mrs. Gandhi, is exerting special efforts in this respect.

But, despite these Gulf, Arab and Islamic efforts we feel that the United Nations has a special responsibility. The Security Council has passed its resolution No 540 which included a call to the secretary general to follow up this subject which is threatening peace and security in the world. Hence the UN secretary general is urgently called upon now to move speedily and give this matter the importance that the enormity of the ensuing dangers deserve. Moreover the world's big powers which have world interests and international responsibilities are called upon not to continue to be bystanders to the collapse, the rivers of blood and the clouds of destruction without adopting any step that they are capable of adopting. We are not here calling upon them to intervene in (?their) interests, but we are calling upon them to exert more effort in the interests of international peace and security.

Finally, brethren, I would like to reaffirm the main elements of Kuwait's present stand on this war, which in fact does not differ in essence from the declared stand of the members of the GCC and the Arab League.

First: We without the least reservation are against the continuation of this war. Moreover, we see no sensible and acceptable justification for its continuation.

Second: We realize the ultimate gravity of the possible intervention of foreign powers in the affairs of the region as a result of the continuation of this war.

Third: We are convinced the best possibilities for reaching sensible and just solutions to settle the outstanding problems between Iraq and Iran are through negotiations and through a manner acceptable to both sides.

Fourth: It is fair and true to praise here the constructive response manifested by sister Iraq with the mediation efforts exerted up until now to end this war. Moreover, we genuinely and sincerely appeal to its neighbor, the Islamic Republic of Iran to turn towards peace and to respond to the sincere appeals demanding a halt to this sad destruction of resources which, without any doubt, the Islamic world now direly needs in its confrontation with its real enemies.

I beseech God to inspire us with the true word and lead us along the true path. Peace and the grace of God be upon you.

Turkish Security Chief Visits for Talks

GF191453 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] *AL-QABAS* has learned that the chief of Turkish public security is currently visiting Kuwait at a head of a high-level security delegation to hold talks with officials at the Interior Ministry regarding cooperation between Kuwait and Turkey in the security field.

Well-informed sources told *AL-QABAS* that the visit by the

Turkish official and the talks that he is holding are within the framework of efforts to set up "a land, sea and air security perimeter" to prevent terrorist operations and foil attempts aimed at undermining the security and stability which Kuwait enjoys, due to the efforts of its security system which is always alert to protect society from any criminal attempts.

These sources added that the high-level Turkish official held meetings during the past 2 days with high-ranking officials at the Interior Ministry and discussed with them the issues of confronting terrorism and training local cadres to face all possibilities involving security. Turkey has much experience in the security field.

Swedish Trade Minister Comments on Visit

LD202137 Kuwait KUNA in English 1927 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 20 (KUNA) — Swedish Foreign Trade Minister Mats Hellstrom Tuesday underlined his country's interest in bolstering all-round exchange with Kuwait, and praised the similarity of political stands between Sweden and Kuwait in international organizations and regarding such issues as the North-South dialogue.

Hellstrom, who arrived here last Sunday at the head of a high-powered delegation, told a press conference this evening that his talks with Kuwaiti officials had covered the means to activate trade exchange between the two countries in the medical, social, telecommunications and road building fields.

The Swedish official, on a three-day official visit, noted that although the volume of Swedish trade with Kuwait was worth some 60 million dollars last year, "We are looking forward to boosting it", he said.

Pointing to Kuwait's acquisition of the U.S. Gulf Oil gas filling and distribution stations in Sweden, Hellstrom said the step has brought Kuwait into direct contact with the Swedish consumer and hoped that it will herald more Kuwaiti investment in his country.

The minister stated that he has felt a favorable response from Kuwaiti officials he talked with, regarding the good prospects for economic, trade, industrial and health cooperation between the two countries and offered Sweden's contribution to the planned connection of electricity networks in the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, saying that Stockholm has a rich experience in this respect, notably that it is linked with other Scandinavian states with a common electricity network.

Interior Minister Discusses December Bombings

GF191307 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Mar 84

p 1

[Text] Crimes committed in Kuwait recently were the result of international conflicts, the interior minister, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has said.

In an interview with the weekly *AR-RISALAH* magazine

published today, Shaykh Nawwaf said Kuwait played host to 120 different nationalities. The crimes, compared with incidents in other multi-racial societies, were insignificant.

Referring to last December's bomb blasts, Shaykh Nawwaf said: "As we have announced before, the investigations revealed that foreign elements are behind the small group which committed the crime and attempted to disturb the country's security." Shaykh Nawwaf urged the public to trust the country's security system "and not to listen to rumors".

OMAN

Agricultural Delegation Returns From PDRY

GF191549 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-Hafiz Salim Rajab, agriculture and fisheries minister, and the delegation accompanying him, returned home today after leading the sultanate's delegation to the meetings of the 17th session of the FAO Near East regional conference, which concluded in the PDRY on Thursday, after holding a series of meetings which lasted 5 days. Upon his arrival in Salalah civil airport, he made a statement to the radio and television correspondent that the conference had discussed a number of issues — such as education and training in the agricultural development field, and the strategy of agricultural investment — and that the conference issued a number of recommendations in this regard.

He said that during this visit he held a series of meetings, among which was a meeting with his excellency, PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, during which he conveyed to him the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. He said that his excellency, the Yemeni chairman, has asked him to extend his greetings to his majesty, the sultan of the country, and that meetings were also held with the minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, the minister of fish resources, and the minister of foreign affairs. Their talks dealt with the means of developing cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the agricultural field and its development, the exchange of experience in this field, studying the means of developing fishery resources, and everything else concerning this field.

At the conclusion of his statement, he thanked the PDRY minister of agriculture and agrarian reform and the minister of fish resources for giving him the chance to visit some Yemeni towns to become acquainted with the most important agricultural and fishery project. He visited a number of towns, including Say'un, Shibam, Tarim, and the Lahij and Adyan governorates.

PDRY

YSP Official Receives PLF Secretary General

GF201454 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee,

received in his office this morning. Brother Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF). During the meeting, Brother Tal'at Ya'qub reviewed the threats the Palestinian revolution is confronting as a result of the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary conspiracies, which intend to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and strike at the national unity of the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir reaffirmed the firm and principled stance of our party and country toward the Palestinian issue, the Arab Palestinian people, and their right to return, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil. The two sides also reviewed the relations between the YSP and the PLF.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Prague Visit

GF202014 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, YSP Central Committee member and foreign minister, left Aden this evening for Prague on an official visit to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic [CSSR] that will last several days, at the invitation of Comrade Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs.

QATAR

Amir Receives Letter From Malaysian Leader

GF201834 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Text] His highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, has received a letter from Malaysian paramount ruler Sultan Ahmad Shah on the means of strengthening relations between the two friendly countries in various fields.

The letter was delivered by Mr Mohamed Khatib Abdul Hamid, Malaysian ambassador to the State of Qatar, during his meeting with the amir at his office in Ad-Dawhah Palace at 1000 today.

SAUDI ARABIA

SPA Notes Arrival of U.S. AWACS in Egypt

LD201321 Riyadh SPA in English 1232 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Washington, March 20, SPA — Two U.S. radar surveillance aircraft have arrived in Egypt yesterday to help in monitoring the Sudanese borders in the wake of an air raid on the Sudanese city of Omdurman on last Friday, the Pentagon announced here today. The Pentagon's spokesman said the decision to send the AWACS came after intensive consultations between Washington, Cairo and Khartoum.

Meanwhile U.S. State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said the sending of the AWACS to the region is a warning and

that they will take part in combined defence operations with Egypt and Sudan. Sudan has accused Libya of involvement in the raid but Libya has denied it.

AL-JAZIRAH Calls Lausanne Talks 'First Step'

GF210536 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT
21 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The First Step on the Road To Solving the Lebanese Crisis," the newspaper *AL-JAZIRAH* said:

The good ending to the meetings of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference comes in response to the aspirations of the Lebanese people, who have suffered more than any other people. That is why the Lebanese leaders taking part in the conference called for hammering out a formula that is acceptable to all sides.

The paper went on to say: The Lebanese leaders have laid the cornerstone of the solution. What was announced yesterday represents more than a good start. The work left to do entails a continuation of efforts, work and assiduous action in the same spirit of responsibility as was demonstrated at the Lausanne conference — where the first step was made in the direction of solving the Lebanese crisis.

AL-JAZIRAH Criticizes FRG's Kohl on Arms

PM161515 Riyadh *AL-JAZIRAH* in Arabic 8 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "We Deal With Others Sincerely, Honorably, and With Dignity"]

[Excerpts] For the second and, we hope, last time, FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl compels us to react to his unacceptable conduct regarding the German arms deal with the Kingdom. He has stated that he discussed the question of the deal with U.S. officials during his visit to Washington. Let us first recall what Second Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister His Highness Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said in response to the German chancellor's statement. He said that the United States is not the Kingdom's guardian and that the FRG has no right to discuss anything concerning the Kingdom with any other state.

By doing what he said he did in Washington regarding the German arms deal with the Kingdom, Chancellor Kohl has above all done a disservice to his country and to himself as ruler of that country because he has agreed to place his independent decision on matters of national sovereignty at the disposal of another state so that it may comment before he makes the decision and so that it may tell him what to do.

The Kingdom has never and will never be as eager to buy German arms as Chancellor Kohl made it out to be, and there will never even be a middleman between the Kingdom and the FRG to conduct the deal for the simple reason that all the doors of the world's states are open to us — including the superpowers and the big powers which produce more advanced weapons than

Germany does — and that most if not all of them have given Saudi Arabia the full right to pick and choose of its free will and in accordance with the requirements of its defense strategy.

In fact the states that produce advanced weapons are competing among themselves to meet the Kingdom's wishes in this connection, so much so that this competition has nearly developed into cold wars and crises in the relations between these states for no reason other than the fact that each state is striving to win the Kingdom's acceptance of its offer — and there are hundreds of offers.

Chancellor Kohl should realize that the Kingdom has the money to pay for its arms and other purchases, that it does not beg for grants or long- or short-term loans, and that the Kingdom can buy whatever it wants at the stated price without haggling, outbidding, or conditions of any kind.

Chancellor Kohl should have realized that a country with the Kingdom's weight and purchasing power will not be the loser if any side it seeks to purchase arms from tries to haggle.

UAE

Press Denounces Reagan, U.S. Mideast Policies

GF170915 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0612 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 17 Mar (WAM) — Three local newspapers today comment on the U.S. policy in the Middle East region and on statements U.S. officials have made regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine on the one hand, and regarding the U.S. military preparations to intervene in the Gulf region on the other. The newspapers call for an Arab-Islamic alliance in order to safeguard the Gulf against the dangers of foreign intervention.

The newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* describes U.S. President Reagan's statement about the emigration of Soviet Jews as extremely serious. It says: "Nothing would be more serious than this, outside of Moscow permitting a single Zionist among its inhabitants to emigrate to Israel or Moscow submitting to this U.S. blackmail." The newspaper explains that every emigrant means implanting a new seed in Israel "and also means supporting its policies and its aggressive and expansionist inclinations, as well as its plans to build more settlements and fill them with settlers, a thing that will — according to terrorist Yitzhak Shamir — create a new status quo." The newspaper stresses that the U.S. President's statement is an expression of the additional U.S. support for Israel and its aggressive policies and expansionist inclinations, and for its violation of the sacred rights in the Arab lands.

The newspaper *AL-KHALIJ*, which is published in Ash-Sharīqah, comments on U.S. statements about U.S. military intervention in the Arabian Gulf region if the Strait of Hormuz were to be closed. The paper says that these statements reconfirm that "from the U.S. and Western point of view, the question of Gulf security is being exploited as a cover to bring about Western military intervention in the Gulf's internal affairs." The paper adds that the U.S. statements and military preparations "have

somehow succeeded in undermining the concept of the Arab nation's security by dissociating Gulf security from the Palestinian question, and by imposing the U.S. concept, according to which the Gulf's security is being threatened by the relations among its states and by its own children, whom the United States describes as radicals." The paper calls for an extensive Gulf move to stop the U.S. intervention in the region, "which will begin from occupied Palestine in accordance with the terms of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance."

The newspaper *AL-FAJR* calls on the Arab states not to pin much hope on any U.S. move, whether the present administration stays in office or not. It says: "We therefore must not wait for the election results, but must move, apply pressure and impose the Arab solutions. Achieving victory is not impossible if we unite and assert our determination." The paper adds that the failure of U.S. policy in the Middle East region is the result of the wrong inclinations of successive U.S. administrations. This administration dealt with the Arab states as if they were contradicting fronts, although it is U.S. policy which has produced the fronts and axes in this region. The paper notes the U.S. Administration's full support for the Zionist entity and its strategic alliance with it, as well as its announcement that it is a partner in the accomplishment of peace in the region.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying that U.S. policy has been a failure for a long time, and that the present Reagan administration has come to confirm this failure and show it clearly before the world. "What is important is that we don't hope for anything, because Reagan, in the wake of his policy's failure throughout the world, will not bring anything to us. Also neither Hart nor Mondale are our hope, and we must find ourselves a path far removed from that of the superpowers."

Petroleum Minister al-'Utaybah Visits Japan

For Japanese reportage on the unofficial visit to Japan by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, including his talks with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Minister of International Trade Hikosaburo Okonogi, see the Japan section of the 20 March Asia and Pacific *DAILY REPORT*.

Oil Minister Returns

GF210909 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0650 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 21 Mar (WAM) — UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah returned home today from Japan, after concluding a visit that lasted several days. He noted that during the visit he met with the Japanese prime minister, foreign affairs minister, and energy minister. He added that during these meetings he demanded that Japan play a positive role in promoting cooperation between the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries and work in the direction of undertaking whatever ensures the stability of the oil market. He also demanded that Japan play a positive role in reaching honorable solutions for the Middle East and the Gulf issues.

YAR

Salih Cables Chernenko on Treaty Anniversary
GF202026 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the friendship and cooperation treaty between our country and the Soviet Union, Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, sent the following cable to the Soviet leader:

Dear friend Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Moscow:

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the friendship and cooperation agreement between our two friendly countries, it is my pleasure to send you, and through you to the Soviet people, true hearty congratulations from me personally and on behalf of the YAR Government and people.

Dear friend, we consider the agreement to be a strong brick in the structure of relations between the two countries which have been established for nearly 55 years within the framework of constructive and fruitful cooperation which is founded on clear and profound bases of mutual respect.

[Signed] 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, and Secretary General of the General People's Congress

Mubarak Comments on AWACS, Defense Issues*NC201219 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has declared that the AWACS aircraft will mainly overfly Egyptian territory, adding: We have not yet decided whether or not these aircraft will overfly Sudanese territory. The president affirmed: We will return these aircraft once we feel we no longer need them.

This came in statements that President Mubarak made at the end of his meetings today at the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah.

Replying to a question on the mission of the AWACS aircraft, which arrived in Cairo yesterday, and whether more aircraft are needed, the president said: The mission of the AWACS aircraft was declared in Washington.

Asked if he has evidence of military concentrations or any Libyan military activities in the Al-Kufrah area or on the Egyptian-Libyan borders, the president said: From the military perspective, I cannot disclose anything about military affairs. But we are vigilant and we are ready for any possibility. We will, under no circumstances, allow any border violations.

Asked whether this can be regarded as an escalation of the conflict, Mubarak said: We are not interested in any escalation. We have to defend our country and we would take every step to defend this country if our borders were attacked.

Replying to a question on whether Egypt will respond in case of further provocation, President Mubarak said: If our borders were violated we would not stand by idly.

President Mubarak was then asked if this can also be applied to Sudan. He replied: Let's say this applies to both areas.

Asked whether there is a time limit for the AWACS mission, the president said: When we feel they are no longer needed, we will return them.

Cairo Solidarity With Palestinians Forum 30 Mar-2 Apr
PM191623 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
 17 Mar 84 p 1

[*ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Cairo and London correspondents report: "Cairo Expecting Important Event; Israel Failed To Prevent Convening of International Conference in Support of Palestine To Be Opened by Mubarak and Attended by 'Arafat'"]

[Excerpt] Cairo is now expecting a historic event to happen — the first of its kind since the signing of the Camp David accords. The event would be a turning point in Egypt's attitude and would have important repercussions regarding its return to the Arab ranks following PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt and the ICO decision to take Egypt back.

This important event is the convening of the International Conference of Solidarity With the Palestinian People 30 March-2 April, which will be attended by Yasir 'Arafat. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will participate in the conference by delivering a speech which is expected to be firm and to contain confirmation of his era's political line of supporting the Palestinian people's struggle.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egypt rejected several official Israeli protests aimed at preventing the convening of the conference. It was also learned that the Soviet Union, for its part, tried to prevent the convening of the conference for several reasons that it did not reveal. These reasons include the fact that the conference is being held in Cairo and that it wants to sit on the fence between the PLO and the dissidents. But the Soviet complex has been resolved through Palestinian-Soviet contacts at the highest levels.

The importance of the conference which is being organized by the Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee lies in the fact that it is being held with Egypt's sponsorship and official blessing and that the inaugural session will be held in the former Arab League headquarters, which confirms official interest in the conference.

Arab sources have told *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the conference will be an opportunity to emphasize Egypt's Arab character and its solidarity with its sisters. It will also be an opportunity for President Mubarak to explain his Arab stands and policies which he has been pursuing since he assumed office. These include the withdrawal of Egyptian ambassador from Israel, halting the normalization procedures, and denouncing all Israeli arbitrary and aggressive actions as well as supporting the Arab viewpoint with regard to solving the Palestinian problem on a just and fair basis. Moreover, the Egyptian President has substantially improved his relations with most of the Arab countries and it was noticed recently that there is an atmosphere of good relations between Egypt and Syria.

Al-Baz To Convey Message to Jordan's Husayn*NC201425 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, said he will pay a short visit to Jordan tomorrow to convey a personal message from President Husni Mubarak to his Majesty King Husayn. He said the message deals with all the recent developments regarding the Palestinian issue, particularly the recent dialogue between Jordan and the PLO, as the recent aggression on Omdurman.

It should be recalled that during the past 2 days, Al-Baz met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Khartoum. They discussed the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and the future view of the moves regarding the Palestinian issue.

Chief of Staff Inspects Western Border Positions

NC201253 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Abd al-Ghafur, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, this morning visited the western military region and inspected certain units and the conditions of the forces in the area.

Mubarak Meets Arab Cooperative Conference Members

NC191002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received the members of the Arab Cooperative Union's conference this morning at Al-Urubah Palace. This conference is being held in Cairo with 11 Arab countries participating.

The meeting was attended by Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation; and People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Zaki.

Jerusalem Bill: U.S. Exploiting Election Year

AL-AHRAM Calls for Action

PM201127 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Mar 84 pp 1,3

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "Before Jerusalem Is Lost Forever"]

[Excerpts] Recent reports have spoken of frenzied activity in the corridors of the U.S. Congress, aimed at issuing a resolution obliging the U.S. Administration to transfer its Israeli Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The reports say that this frenzied activity in the corridors of Congress is concentrating on taking this serious step at this time in particular, a presidential election year, when the U.S. Administration is preoccupied with these sorts of calculations more than anything else. Meanwhile, in this adverse time the Arabs are preoccupied with their disputes and conflicts, their efforts are being wasted in the attempts to stop bloodshed in the Gulf war or in Lebanon and to defend themselves against the Iranian hurricane. There are disturbances in the Horn of Africa and attempts to stir up disturbances in southern Sudan.

All these provide "ideal" conditions for what is being prepared and planned.

It is not surprising, though appreciating the impact of Zionist influence in Washington, that the spark of this serious action or "initiative" should come from within the Congress and not the White House. Also, it is not surprising that the attempts to resist this action come from the U.S. Administration.

Democratic Senator Patrick Moynihan submitted this serious bill which enjoyed the approval of 38 out of 100 Senators. In the House of Representatives Congressman Lantos submitted a similar bill. Reports indicate that the bill is supported by 138 representatives out of 435.

But what is strange indeed is that while the U.S. Administration's concern over this trend is increasing because of fear of a worldwide reaction against U.S. interests in the Arab and Islamic world. This serious trend is enjoying greater support in Congress with every day. The bill was discussed in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 23 February and supporters of the bill, according to their recent statements, intend to put it to the vote during this year despite "pressures" by the U.S. Administration to stop this action. Supporters of the bill said they will not "give in" to such pressures and will continue with their steps.

Secretary of State George Shultz has sent a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee warning it of the serious consequences of this policy and drawing the committee's attention to the fact that this bill raises serious questions regarding the separation of powers in the United States.

What is the meaning of this blind insistence even at the expense of constitutional considerations involving the separation of powers in the United States?

What is the meaning of exploiting the election year to endorse this measure that is unfair to the rights of Arabs and Muslims in holy Jerusalem?

From now on we are sounding the alarm so the Arab and Islamic world will wake up to what is happening in Washington.

Let everyone be aware of what is being contrived for holy Jerusalem in the corridors of the U.S. Congress by lobby groups that do not seem to even care about wide U.S. interests in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

We are sounding the alarm so that everyone will wake up to the proposed measure which if carried out — and I sincerely hope it will not be — will mark a serious turn in the U.S. policy toward the Palestinian problem, the Arab cause, and the Islamic world in general.

The United States restated its commitment to the stand on Jerusalem in former President Jimmy Carter's reply to a letter from President as-Sadat during the 1978 Camp David negotiations, the letters between the two presidents known as the exchange on Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the proposed bill undermines these assurances by adopting a new attitude which is quite contrary to the previous one.

In these two letters both Egypt and the United States confirmed their stand of regarding Jerusalem as an integral part of Arab territory.

Egypt has felt the gravity of what is currently taking place in U.S. Congress, and has stressed its strong rejection of it from the beginning. President Mubarak has sent an urgent message to President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz saying that the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem "would be a disaster to U.S. interests in the Arab and Islamic worlds. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali summoned U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Nicolas Veliotis and told him that "if the attempts in the Congress to

transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem succeed, it will certainly lead to the destruction of the peace process in the Middle East."

Egypt's attitude toward Jerusalem has not changed and will not change.

It now remains for the Arab and Islamic worlds to translate their stand on Jerusalem into a serious action in order to repel this new danger threatening Arab Jerusalem.

We want actions that would defend Jerusalem against such intentions and designs. We do not want wailing and cries of help that would soon die down.

We want a unanimous Arab action on a cause on which there is no disagreement among all the parties and axes.

We want Islamic unanimity in dealing with a case which is in the heart and conscience of every Arab and Muslim throughout the world.

We want positive and conscious action by the ICO Committee on Jerusalem that would explain to U.S. and world public opinion the seriousness of what is being designed against Jerusalem.

We want action and not reaction; action and not shouting. This is what we want now from all the parties.

The United States will have to balance its interests in the Arab and Islamic worlds against its election calculations and the calculations of the internal pressure groups in it.

This is the option that we have to put clearly to the United States if it decides to yield to the Zionist pressure groups in the Congress.

The decision the United States will make in the near future on Arab Jerusalem depends much on our seriousness, efforts, and unanimity.

Hart, Mondale Support Decried

NC210810 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT
21 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "The Arabs and the U.S. Presidential Campaigns," the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* says: The readiness expressed by Democratic presidential candidates Walter Mondale and Gary Hart to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is part of a merciless propaganda campaign during the U.S. presidential elections. The paper adds that the announcement made by the two Democratic candidates is not in favor of the Arabs and disregards principal Arab issues and issues concerning Arab existence. The announcement, *AL-AKHBAR* says, shows the extent of the U.S. politicians' disrespect for the Arab world as a result of Arab division and petty incidents that certain Arabs perpetrate, such as the Libyan air strike on the Sudanese radio station.

Continuing, *AL-AKHBAR* affirms that the two U.S. candidates' positions toward the Arabs would have been quite different if the Arabs were unified and if they agreed on the least of what they have been trying to attain.

AL-AKHBAR calls for Arab coordination and solidarity, and for Arab influence on U.S. policy to make this or that candidate think twice before adopting biased attitudes in favor of the U.S. Jewish lobby and Israel at the expense of important and sensitive Arab issues.

In conclusion, the paper urges Arabs to react immediately and strongly, because such campaign positions as those of Mondale and Hart — even if either has no chance for victory — are an insult to the Arabs' issues and presence. The paper also urges the U.S. candidates to resort to logic and entertain far-sightedness. This was urged so that what the candidates have said would not backfire, would not instill hatred against the United States among hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims, and would not pull the United States down into whirlpools much worse than those in which it had already drowned.

Israeli Gains Possible

PM210850 Cairo MAY in Arabic 18 Mar 84 p 2

[Unattributed column: "Israeli Affairs"]

[Excerpts] As the date for holding the U.S. presidential election in November approaches, the U.S. Government's resistance in matters on which it disagrees with Israel over the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict becomes weaker, and at the same time Israel becomes bolder in rejecting U.S. proposals that do not agree with its policy. This is what is currently happening in the silent dialogue between President Reagan and Israeli leaders and politicians, particularly since President Reagan is fighting the election battle and is anxious to obtain the American Jewish vote.

During his meetings with various Jewish groups and their influential leaders while campaigning, he describes U.S. relations with Israel as stronger now than ever and stresses his commitment to preserve these relations and his government's obligation to give aid to Israel to help it maintain its position and military superiority in the Middle East. He also reiterates his warning to the Arab countries which are seeking to expel Israel from the United Nations by saying that "if Israel is forced to withdraw from the United Nations the United States will also withdraw." He also stresses that the United States will not recognize the PLO and will not negotiate with it as long as it does not recognize Israel's right to exist. This was the attitude that prompted King Husayn to declare that the United States has lost its credibility as a mediator in the area, and does not care about principles during an election year, and that Jordan will not respond to Reagan's policy because it submitted to Israeli diktat.

Despite all this Israel did not forgive Reagan for stating that the construction of settlements is an obstacle to peace. Its prompt answer to him came in Minister of Science and Development Yuval Ne'eman's announcement that the Israel Government has

decided to build 16 new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza this year. Observers have described this as a strong answer to President Reagan's appeal to stop settlements on Arab land. And despite the Reagan government's opposition to transferring its embassy to Jerusalem, Israel is exerting great pressure and is intensely active in the corridors of the U.S. Congress to obtain a resolution obliging the U.S. Administration to move its embassy to Jerusalem at a critical time that would help Israel achieve its objective.

Egypt's response when Israel proclaimed Jerusalem indivisible and its capital forever on 30 June 1980 was to immediately stop the autonomy talks because of this serious measure. President Mubarak for his part refused to visit Jerusalem and, as a result, Egyptian-Israeli relations began deteriorating. Israel then invaded Lebanon and Egypt made the restoration of relations with Israel to their previous state conditional on fulfilling its well-known demands regarding the Palestinian problem and the Lebanese problem.

It now remains for us, the Arabs, to be alert to Israel's attempts to score new victories during a U.S. presidential election year as it is accustomed to doing. Nothing will stop Israel from scoring such victories except our unity and solidarity to defend our rights and our area against becoming an arena of conflict between the two superpowers.

Shamir's Criticism of Egyptian Attitude Viewed

PM152000 Cairo MAY in Arabic 14 Mar 84 p 2

[Unattributed "Israeli Affairs" column]

[Excerpts] A large number of people in Israel itself and in various parts of the world have refuted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's allegations that Egypt's return to the Arabs is the reason behind its freezing of the peace with Israel, and that Egypt has used the Lebanese-Israeli war as a pretext to withdraw its ambassador from Tel Aviv. Those people have supported what former Israeli Chief of Staff Bar-Lev said in a statement to the *JERUSALEM POST* to the effect that there are no grounds for the allegation that Egypt's desire to return to the Arabs is behind its freezing of the peace with Israel, but rather the reason for freezing the normalization of relations is due to the Lebanese war and to what is taking place on the West Bank.

The number of Israeli people who so believe is significantly increasing daily. This annoys and upsets the Israeli Government and represents an element of great pressure on it that restricts its actions and decisions. This was particularly true after these people demonstrated in support of the demand for immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces in Lebanon in order to save their money and invest it in building houses for the poor and raising their standard of living, which has reached rock bottom.

President Mubarak's interview with the U.S. CBS television broadcast at noon last Sunday on the "Face the Nation" program, the most popular weekend program in the United States, struck the Israeli leaders and their policy like a thunderbolt because it pulled the ground from under those who like to fish in troubled waters. It refuted all the Israeli allegations which the Israeli Government charged the Jewish lobby in Washington with transmitting to the U.S. Administration, the Congress, and

the Defense and State Departments in order to win U.S. support for Israel's aggressive and colonialist plans. Moreover its timing was a deadly blow because it was broadcast on the eve of the second Lebanese reconciliation conference in Lausanne, thereby destroying all the cards that Israel wanted to play to undermine the conference, and encouraging the Lebanese to make any concessions that would enable the setting up of a national unity government that will seek the evacuation of Israel from Lebanon, something which Israeli is striving to abort.

President Mubarak has refuted all Shamir's allegations by declaring that Egypt will not abandon its treaty with Israel because Egypt is a state with its own will and respects its obligations, and by pointing out that if Egypt's return to the Arab League is made conditional on abrogating this treaty then Egypt will not return. He also pointed out that he will not meet with the Israeli prime minister until Israel completely withdraws from Lebanon and takes steps to solve the Palestinian problem, and that it was Israel that violated the Camp David agreement by annexing the Golan and Arab Jerusalem, invading Lebanon, and freezing the talks on autonomy.

President Mubarak has put before Israel and the United States established and irrefutable facts — that Egypt, the Arab countries, and the whole world will not accept a peace that is impossible to achieve and protect. Rather, Egypt is prepared to accept a possible peace and to provide all the resources to attain it.

Netherlands Extends Mandate of Sinai Contingent

NC201347 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — The Netherlands today officially notified Egypt of its decision to extend the mandate of its contingent participating in the Multinational Force in Sinai. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Netherlands Ambassador to Cairo Nicholas Hendrik, who conveyed his government's decision. During the meeting, they reviewed all aspects of the current Middle East situation.

Mubarak Cables Good Wishes to Bourguiba

NC191357 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on the occasion of Tunisia's independence day:

It gives me pleasure to convey to your excellency my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the independence anniversary, which was a crowning of the heroic struggle of the fraternal Tunisian people who achieved, under your wise leadership, dazzling accomplishments in the various aspects of life.

We implore God almighty to grant us success in serving the welfare of our two fraternal peoples and realizing the aspirations of the peoples of our glorious nation for a free and dignified life.

I convey to you my sincere greetings and best wishes for your health and happiness coupled with my wishes for the constant progress and prosperity of the fraternal Lebanese people. With my deepest respect and esteem.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,410 — 20 Mar*JN201800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Communique No 1,410 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 20 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With high morale derived from faith in God the Almighty and the souls of the immortal grandfathers and their bright history, the sons of great Iraq continue to bravely defend the dear homeland's soil, water, and airspace inflicting more losses and destruction on the criminal Khomeyniites. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our brave pilots today carried out successful raids on enemy targets and concentrations opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits. They inflicted heavy losses on enemy soldiers, weapons, and equipment and returned safely to base, praise be to God.
2. A formation of our helicopter gunships carried out daring and successful attacks against enemy positions and targets east of Basra and east of Tigris, scoring accurate and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses on them. The attack destroyed four troop concentrations, three vehicles, one armored vehicle carrying personnel, one excavator, and four boats carrying personnel. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, thanks be to God.
3. One of our forward units raided enemy positions opposite our positions east of Basra. It pounded the enemy positions with all types of weapons, killing or wounding a number of soldiers. Elsewhere in the same area, three enemy soldiers were killed, one heavy machine gun was destroyed, and its personnel were killed.
4. New groups of Iranian soldiers, who are escaping from the inferno and terrorism of the criminal rulers of Iran, sought refuge with their weapons with our forward units in the northern operational sector. They were safely evacuated to the rear positions. In another area of the same sector, one hardware stockpile was destroyed.
5. Four were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the central operational sector.
6. One of our forward units opened fire with various types of weapons at an enemy patrol that tried to approach our forward units in the Maysan operational sector and forced the patrol to escape after inflicting losses on it in personnel and weapons.
7. Yesterday evening and today, the criminal Khomeyniites shelled Basra and Mandali and their environs with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling wounded five civilians, damaged three houses in Basra and a number of civilian installations in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 March 1984

Crude Oil Pipeline Via Saudi Arabia Planned*JN201357 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA) — It was announced today that an agreement with an international company was recently signed for carrying out detailed studies and designs for an Iraqi crude oil pipeline that would pass through Saudi Arabia.

A source in the Iraqi Oil Ministry said that the next few weeks will witness the execution of the contract regarding the first stage of the project.

In a statement to INA, the source stressed that by this contract this vital project will have entered the serious and actual execution stage for widening and developing Iraq's crude oil export potential.

The source asserted that the Iraqi leadership attaches a special importance to the implementation and completion of this project in the shortest time required for a project of this magnitude.

Executives Deny Producing Chemical Warfare Material*NC201936 Cairo MENA in English 1652 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] 'Akashat, Iraq, March 20 (MENA) — British and American executives of Iraq's phosphate complex denied today the Western press claims that the complex is producing chemical warfare materials.

Arab and foreign correspondents made a six-hour tour of the phosphate complex at 'Akashat area, about four hundred kilometres west of Baghdad, and interviewed the executive officers.

Ronald Fogg, the British executive manager of the complex, and Gary Tower, the American technical director, said the complex has no raw materials other than those used in the production of fertilizer.

The complex is run by a number of foreign companies, including Belgian, West German, American, Brazilian and Danish firms. These foreign companies are in full charge of the operation of the complex until they deliver it to the Iraqi government in July this year.

Jordanian Ministers Leave Baghdad 20 March*JN202048 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Sulayman 'Arar, Jordanian deputy prime minister and interior minister, and Jawad al-'Anani, industry, trade, and tourism minister, left Baghdad for Amman this afternoon after their visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, 'Arar said that the visit was successful and fruitful. They talked with Iraqi officials about developing and strengthening relations of cooperation in the fields of oil

industry, commerce, and economy, in addition to signing a border demarcation agreement between the two fraternal countries.

They were seen off by RCC member and Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir, Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi, the under secretaries of the ministries of interior and oil, and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Health Minister To Visit Czechoslovakia

JN201247 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA) — Dr Sadiq Hamid 'Allush left Baghdad this morning heading a delegation to Czechoslovakia for a several day visit.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that his visit to Czechoslovakia comes at the invitation of the Czechoslovak health minister to discuss bilateral cooperation in several fields concerning health matters between the two countries.

New Karbala' Governor Takes Oath Before President

JN201245 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] On the occasion of receiving his new commission, Governor of Karbala' Khalil Ibrahim this morning took the constitutional oath before President Saddam Husayn.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of the President's Office Ahmad Husayn, and Local Government Minister 'Adnan Dawud Salman.

BBC Interviews King Husayn 20 March

*JN202020 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 20 Mar 84*

["Text" of interview King Husayn granted to the BBC Arabic section, broadcast by the BBC on 20 March — date and place not given; announcer-read]

[Text] Question: Your Majesty King Husayn: The recent concentrated attack on U.S. policy in the Middle East via *THE NEW YORK TIMES* and the U.S. CBS television network has upset some equations since the Camp David era and cast doubts on some convictions reached by many political analysts who expected the United States to move toward a peaceful solution in the region after the U.S. elections in November. You no longer believe that the United States is capable of achieving anything now or in the near future. Moreover, you do not welcome any more polarization and do not believe that any progress can be achieved via the two superpowers. Many political analysts also do not see any hope via the UN Security Council with its present formation, despite the participation of the sides in the conflict, due to the veto which will freeze the situation. Your Majesty, do you see even a ray of hope in any other outlet, including West Europe, the EEC, and the past and future meetings between you and Yasir 'Arafat?

Answer: In fact, all that I have recently said about the political situation in the United States was not meant to be interpreted as an attack, meaning an end to the road vis-a-vis Arab-U.S. dialogue. It was an real account of the situation, as I see it in view of what is known about the attainment of the Zionist movement, Israel, and the Jewish lobby of such a degree of influence in the United States, that it led within a few years to the deterioration of the situation and a change in U.S. stands. This has been particularly noticeable since 1967.

If we move back to 1956, we find that the U.S. leadership at that time was capable, at the decisive stage of an election year, to stand against the two allies Britain and France as well as against Israel on principled bases. In 1967 we worked together to crystallize the UN Security Council Resolution No 242, which the United States still considers the basis for any solution to the problem with regard to the inadmissibility of the occupation of others' territory by war. The equation is clear: Territory in return for peace; a comprehensive withdrawal in return for peace in this part of the world. However, as time drags on we find that the subject has now become one of discussing this principle in particular, and the objective of negotiations is no longer that of adopting the principle and then seeking to apply it on the basis of all that this means to people.

Israel claims that it owns the territory. It is continuing the construction of settlements. It rejected U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative, intensified its settlement acts, continued its presence on Lebanese territory, and made strides in the field of new projects aimed at resettling people in the Jordan valley. It keeps saying that the Palestine question is one of people and not territory. Finally, there are Israeli measures to apply the Israeli real estate laws to the occupied territory, in addition to the suffering of the kinfolk and brothers there and the deprivation of their rights, in all the senses of the word, to express themselves

and their will. This is, of course, taking place due to Israel's military power which is based on the U.S. aid — the financial assistance which is turning into settlements built on Arab lands, and the U.S. Administration's impotence to stand and defend what it proposes due to the Zionist influence. Hence, U.S. credibility has reached its worst state with regard to the Arab human being in the entire Arab homeland. After determining this reality and defining the dimensions of the problem, I must say that as long as matters remain as they are now, the United States will not be able to play the big role that other states cannot play in serving the cause of peace in this world. However, if matters change, this will be another subject. But this is the reality.

Question: What about the previous and future talks between you and Yasir 'Arafat?

Answer: The talks are continuing and they are positive. In fact, the matter exceeds that of persons. It is a question of the Jordanian and Palestinian as members of one family facing the same destiny. They share the same dangers, aims, and objectives, a matter which makes it incumbent on us to work for the crystallization of a solid ground on which we can stand in the face of all challenges and dangers. Matters are progressing in a good and positive way.

Question: Sir, Jordan's rapprochement with 'Arafat and his supporters means that a Palestinian and Arab sector will continue to oppose this rapprochement and any agreements that may be concluded with regard to future solutions. What is your concept of the seriousness and ability of this sector to obstruct the efforts that may be exerted jointly?

Answer: Madame, at the Rabat summit in 1974 we were committed to consider the PLO the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. We reject any attempt by any side — whether in the Arab world or in any other part of the world — to impose its hegemony on these people and their representatives, or try to bridle and prevent them from having their say about their cause, which is at the same time our cause. We are, therefore, dealing with the PLO in the same manner we have dealt with it throughout the past years, carrying out our commitment from the feeling and belief that Jordan and Palestine are directly in the face of danger before the Arab nation, which is our support. We must work to crystallize our relations in the best possible formula in order to confront the challenge.

Question: The danger of stalemate in the political move lies in the fact that it will lead us to the point of no return in the West Bank and Gaza, regarding the Israeli settlements. In case the Israeli Labor Party takes power in Israel after the fall of the extremist Likud Government, for instance, do you feel that some progress can be achieved, knowing that the Labor Party's declared policy considers that any peaceful settlement must include Israeli presence in the West Bank in the form of settlers and military points adjacent to the Jordan River?

Answer: The Israeli Labor Party was in power when Israel was established and in the years 1967 and 1973 and also after the issuance of UN Resolution 242. This party had certain stands which did not lead either to the aspired solution or to peace in the

region based on justice. Regarding the present Israeli Government, its stands are more extreme. This is obvious and we do not know what will develop in the future. There could be certain phenomena that are being watched with concern by any official regarding Israel. As for the presence of opposition to the current Israeli policy, we do not know what the effects will be if a change takes place in Israel. Such effects could be either positive or negative. We cannot judge matters in advance.

Question: The other dangerous question currently facing the Arab nation is the development of the Iraqi-Iranian war in light of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the majority of the Arab countries. Do you see, in the end, a unified and comprehensive Arab stand to halt this war of attrition?

Answer: I do not know, but I hope that this stand can be reached. I have been expecting this stand to be adopted since the beginning of implementation of the Arab League Charter and the Arab Collective Defense Pact — a stand against an aggression that does not threaten Iraq alone but also the entire Arab nation. Iraq is our strategic depth. If we leave aside the fact that Iraq is right in this war imposed on it, all the Arabs should support it out of the principle of repaying their debts, particularly since Iraq participated in all the battles that were imposed on us. At any rate, this question, as I see it, could have been solved through negotiations had the problem been that of a border dispute or had it been that of establishing the well-known principle of dealings between countries, mutual respect, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of one country by another. This applies not only to Iran and Iraq but also to Iran and its Arab neighbors. It seems that the objective of this war is to drive a dangerous wedge in the region that threatens to tear off not only Iraq but Iraq, the Gulf, and the Arab East. Iraq is currently opposing this objective with the enlightenment of its people and leadership. We support Iraq and hope that Iran will respond positively to Iraq's good intentions concerning its attitude toward all the initiatives that have been proposed to halt this war and bleeding, whose consequences are a loss and harm for all of us. We also hope that Iran will resort to negotiations in order to solve the problem from its roots.

Question: Your Majesty, I recall a British journalist called Kenneth Rose who in November 1981 wrote an article in one of the serious British newspapers in which he said that you were sad about Queen Elizabeth not paying back the visit which you had made to Britain. In this article, the journalist commented that the decisions of British Royal visits are political decisions that have no relation to the personal desires of the royal family. The political decision has been made. Queen Elizabeth will visit Jordan soon. Do you look forward to achieving political gains from this visit?

Answer: Concerning the political aspect in Jordanian-British relations, I can say that they are passing through a stage that has not been witnessed before, with regard to continued contacts and consultations. We believe that the British Government actually is aware of the issues of this region and the dangers threatening it and all its inhabitants as well as the European and British interests and perhaps the world peace. Our relations are ideal and based on mutual respect and confidence, praise be to God.

King Husayn Interviewed by WASHINGTON POST
JN201334 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Text] King Husayn today renewed his attack on U.S. policy in the Middle East, and expressed his regret on the collapse of U.S. credibility, which he said, constitutes a danger to Jordan, the other moderate Arab countries, and the U.S. interests. In a statement published by *THE WASHINGTON POST* today, King Husayn condemned the growing Israeli influence, especially the Jewish lobby's influence in Congress and on U.S. policy.

The Jordanian monarch made similar statements to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* last Thursday, and considered that Washington's support for and partiality to Israel deprived the United States of a mediatory role in the Middle East. In his statement to *THE WASHINGTON POST* today, King Husayn emphasized that there are no differences between himself and the U.S. Administration or between himself and President Reagan. He added that the situation in the Middle East is aggravated because nobody is ready to enter into negotiations with the United States as long as it is biased toward Israel.

More U.S. Cards 'Exposed' in Husayn Statements
JN201023 Amman AR-RAY in Arabic 20 Mar 84 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "Words and Deeds"]

[Text] The real value of principles lies in actions and conduct and not in words and slogans. Since the Palestine tragedy, or to be more precise, since the tripartite aggression against Egypt, the United States has been supporting Zionist extremism, and encouraging, supporting, and backing any Zionist desire for aggression and expansion. Moreover, throughout the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Arab land and citizen have continued to be the target of the U.S. means of killing and destruction. During this era, the U.S. policy constituted the shield for defending the Zionist barbarism and confronting any attempt even if this attempt amounted to nothing more than denunciation of this barbarism.

Despite all this, the Arabs have continued to wager on the principles of justice, right, and peace, and respond to every real effort to protect world peace and stability and establish the relations of understanding and joint interests with the United States. However, the recent years that followed the Likud's assumption of power have witnessed the implementation of the internationally-denounced Zionist plan. The world, which rejects the occupation of others' land, the imposition of the fait accompli by the forces of arrogance, and aggression against others' homelands, identities, histories, and cultures, has witnessed an alliance between the Zionist extremism and the United States against the international community in general and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to their land, identity, and sovereignty. Despite all the efforts that have been exerted to convince the United States of the seriousness of their erroneous policy, the U.S. Administration has continued to turn its back on this nation and wager on arrogant illusions whether in the United States or within the Zionist institution.

If we go back to recent years, we will realize that Washington has become convinced of the Israeli claim which says that the Arabs are a dead and a capitulated nation, and that conditions, agreements, and options can be easily imposed on it. However, His Majesty King Husayn's recent statements have not only exposed more U.S. cards, but also Washington's readiness to sacrifice its interests for the sake of the Zionist entity. Despite the fact that the U.S. attempts to impose hegemony and capitulation on the Arabs have failed, and despite the fact that the United States has appeared smaller and weaker than the picture drawn by President Reagan's administration, the continuation of the erroneous policy, bias, the support for the Zionist extremism, and the unilateral backing of this extremism are still the nature of the U.S. policy. This issue must urge the Arabs to reconsider their calculations. History has never known a nation that capitulated to the invaders and accepted their conditions and hegemony. Moreover, nations do not relinquish their ability to sacrifice for their dignity, existence, and role in the human march.

JORDAN TIMES Interviews Former Prime Minister

JN190915 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Mar 84 p 4

[Interview with former Prime Minister Mudar Badran by *JORDAN TIMES* Staff Reporter Afifah A. Kaluti on 5 March 1984]

[Excerpts] Q: You have had a long experience in the country, and have been prime minister for a longer period than anyone else, what do you think your most important achievements were during seven years in office?

A: During the first period of my premiership, Jordan also faced political problems related to the country's basic issue, the Palestinian cause. These political problems included the unexpected visit by then Egypt's President Anwar As-Sadat to Jerusalem in 1977 despite prior Arab agreement that Arab countries should not tackle the Palestinian issue individually. Egypt's signing of the Camp David pact on Sept. 17, 1978, was a deadly blow to Arab solidarity.

Arab differences, the escalation to the Lebanese civil war, and even the Iran-Iraq war were by products of As-Sadat's solitary move. If Arab solidarity were maintained as the case had been before As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, the situation in the Arab World would not have deteriorated the way it had.

Jordan also faced pressures to get involved in the Camp David agreement and those pressures were not merely political but also financial. Jordan, which depends mostly on external assistance, found itself suddenly threatened by a cut-off of such assistance if it did not join the Camp David process.

Nonetheless, His Majesty King Husayn continued to lead a firm, principled stance opposed to the agreement as a whole.

I remember receiving threatening messages from then U.S. President Jimmy Carter urging us to join the accord, but the King's stance was clear and solid, which helped preserve with considerable integrity a common Arab position of solidarity.

Then came the Baghdad Summit in 1978, a stage characterised by a better Arab standing, and the outcome of the summit enabled Jordan to foil foreign pressures and continue its political, economic and social trends.

When I formed the second cabinet on Aug 28, 1980, Arab differences had flared up and the Amman Arab Summit, which five Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) did not attend, was due to convene soon. Despite the refusal of some Arab states to participate, the summit was an enormous success.

During my second term of office, the Iran-Iraq war erupted and was followed by a massive Syrian military concentration of troops on Jordan's northern border. But we remained solid and shouldered our responsibility in defending the country's borders and helping our brothers in Iraq, keeping the Aqaba port open for providing Iraq with its basic supplies.

Jordan continued to implement its social and economic development projects despite all these events, and by implementing its second five-year plan (which started in 1981), Jordan for the first time started national oil exploration and oil was found in Al-Azraq, east of Jordan, in relatively large quantities.

According to the plan, the oil basin will be surveyed in this area and intensified drilling of wells will follow. I hope that within two years the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company will be supplied with Jordanian crude oil.

Q: ... [Ellipses as published] Do you think that Jordan will be self-sufficient in oil after two years?

A: This of course, will depend on the quantities of oil to be extracted from the discovered basin, and I am fully convinced that Jordan will attain self-sufficiency in the future. This is undoubtedly an important stage in the history of the country. Jordan used to pay for crude oil in hard currency, \$600 million per year, subject to an annual increase.

In September, 1982, U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced his peace initiative for the Middle East. Vis-a-vis the initiative, Jordan consistently insisted on the participation of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people in all stages of the peace process as well as fully supported the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Jordan deeply believes that the Palestinian issue cannot be solved without the participation of the Palestinian people represented by the PLO.

The initiative was premeditatedly aborted by the rejectionist stance it met with from Israel. The Zionist tactics worked on drawing the U.S. into the quicksands of the Lebanese quagmire; for Israel knew that the implementation of the Reagan initiative would not start unless the U.S. worked on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon, and unless Israel was made to halt building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. These two conditions were obviously a prerequisite for approaching practical steps to implement the Reagan plan.

Q: Do you mean the Reagan plan was born dead?

A: Israel by no means wanted the plan to succeed. In order not to provoke the U.S., Israel pulled the Americans into Lebanon with U.S. military forces and other foreign troops, knowing that their presence there would expose U.S. troops to attacks, thereby complicating the situation and hence making it unperceivable to achieve peace in Lebanon. Thus the initiative would be killed in its cradle, to Israel's wish. The Israeli tactics revealed that Israel did not have any intention of withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories.

Israel exerted all possible efforts to achieve its aim. I do not expect at all that Israel will consent to the implementation of U.S. Security Council Resolution 242, which rules out the admissibility of seizing other people's land by force and calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Arab territories occupied in June 1967.

To that effect, I do not see any glimmer of hope for achieving a peaceful settlement to the central issue at the present or in the foreseeable future because of the Israeli anti-peace attitude. The U.S. is not capable of pressuring Israel and this has been physically proved in Lebanon. The U.S. has totally failed to solve this issue which is much less complicated than the Palestinian one.

Q: You are one of the Jordanian officials who participated in the Jordan-PLO talks before they broke down in April 1983. It was well known that you were among those who wanted Jordan to cooperate with the PLO, not to subdue it or talk on its behalf. How do you assess this relation and what do you think is the proper way to handle such talks from now onward?

A: I do not see any glimmer of hope for solving the Palestinian question in the light of the present Arab situation in the first place, and the international situation in general. Solving the Palestinian issue is initially an Arab responsibility. If Arab solidarity is reinforced, a better understanding is established and Arab ranks return to their integrity, then the world community will move towards the issue in a responsible and strong manner forcing Israel to change its attitude.

Negotiations between any two strong and weak parties would lead into surrender of the weaker to the stronger. This is what Israel wants, and this is what Jordan refuses to come down to. The relations between the PLO and Jordan is a clear one and should be a distinguished one and is distinguished anyway. The Jordanians and Palestinians are one nation, having one aim and one future, and Jordan is the party mostly affected in the Arab world by the grievances imposed on the Palestinians. National unity in Jordan is the solid rock on which all conspiracies will break. This was the basic course I relied upon in standing firm against all external conspiracies aimed at involving Jordan separately in political initiatives, and I believe that this solid stance should be preserved and strengthened.

Q: Regarding the restoration of parliament, do you really think that Jordan is ready to bypass the representatives of the PLO?

A: The restoration of parliamentary life aims at resuming the democratic process in Jordan which was absent for a long time. Had it continued to be so a little longer, the constitutional quorum would have been lost for calling the lower house of parliament to convene, and Jordan would have lost its parliamentary life for a very long time.

According to the Jordanian Constitution, the 60-member lower house cannot hold a session with less than 40 members. Over the past 10 years, 15 members died and had we not taken the step, we would have lost the quorum. People have the right to choose their representative (deputies) to parliament through direct elections, and hence the exercise by this house of all its constitutional mandate as a legislative body, among whose rights is giving a vote of confidence to the government or refraining from doing so.

So, when I realised that Jordan was on the verge of losing its constitutional quorum, it was necessary to call for the restoration of parliament as part of my duty.

Q: Do you think that Jordan could practise real democracy without any political parties?

A: Jordan had witnessed activity by many political parties established in the country but related to external leaderships. Their main executive leadership was situated outside the country and as citizens we felt that it was far away from the people's hopes, ambitions and aspirations, so I am fully convinced that the movement of parties should emerge from inside, so that they would work sincerely and honestly in fulfilling the people's requirements and should spring up from national convictions. I do not object to a multi-party political practice but within reasonable limits, which consequently provides for handling national issues through a variety of approaches.

Q: What were your major differences with Syria? Were they personal or general?

A: There were not at all any personal differences. I still maintain special friendship with many Syrian officials. The difference was on general matters, both bilateral and pan-Arab. I am one of those who by no means allow anybody from outside to interfere in our country's internal affairs, as I believe this is a holy matter that should not be tampered with.

Furthermore, I refuse to interfere in the internal affairs of any other country, and I believe that differences of opinion could be bridged through calm dialogue and not through destruction of the Arab household. The only difference should be an Arab-Israeli one and not an inter-Arab conflict that would eventually benefit Israel.

Events in the past proved the authenticity of this fact and that is why I call for an Arab understanding, as I fully believe that there are no personal differences between either the king and any Arab leader or between me and any other government or official. Arab differences were discussed thoroughly by the Fes summit, and, based on fact it was ascertained that the difference between Syria and Jordan was on general issues, the most important of which was the Iran-Iraq war.

Jordan's supportive stand to Iraq was a genuine and not an artificial one. It is a stance in full compliance with the Arab League Charter and the Arab mutual defence pact. Iran confesses that it now occupies Iraqi land, while Syria had said earlier that it would stand against Iran in case its army enters Iraqi territory. I have not seen any Syrian reaction to this development so far.

To put it frankly, I cannot understand this Syria attitude, particularly as it comes from a regime based mainly on a political party, which advocates pan-Arabism and unity as the basis of its existence. Nonetheless, Syria has not changed its attitude towards Iran despite the recent developments. This stance cannot be ignored by Jordan or by any Arab country, for it would mean the loss of Arab basic moral standards, which are the basis for Arab existence. When the Syrian attitude changes, there would not be at all any real differences between Jordan and Syria.

Q: In case the Syrian-PLO relation improves, will this adversely affect the Jordan-PLO present relations?

A: Jordan aims at strengthening Arab solidarity and any improvement in relations between two Arab countries or between the PLO and any other Arab country is a gain and ultimately strengthens Jordan's stance. Jordan's geographic position bordering the Israeli enemy, and its reliance on Arab brethren in its struggle; make promotion of Arab understanding and solidarity the basic and focal point in its policies. Otherwise, Jordan is first to suffer the consequences of Arab misunderstanding.

Royal Committee Sends Memo to Foreign Ministry

*JN210831 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Mar 84
pp 1, 25*

[Muhammad Abu Ghawsh dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Akram Zu'aytir, chairman of the Royal Committee For Jerusalem Affairs, has addressed a memorandum to the Foreign Ministry. In it, Zu'aytir warned of the U.S. Congress' moves to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The memorandum says: Among the positive aspects of the U.S. policy so far have been the nonrecognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the maintaining of its embassy in Tel Aviv. This, along with Arab and Islamic influence, has urged other states to move their embassies from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv.

The memorandum continues: If, during the U.S. election campaign, Zionism succeeds in forcing the United States to change its stand toward moving its embassy to Tel Aviv [as published] and recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, this would be considered a strong blow to the Jerusalem issue and its political future.

Zu'aytir said that the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs believes that if this U.S. change does take place, it would be considered a serious action against the issue of the holy city which

is at the crux of the Palestinian question.

The memorandum called for taking the necessary measures to prevent this action with the cooperation of the Arab and Islamic worlds and the friends of the cause in the international arena.

Copies of the memorandum have been distributed to the ministries concerned with the warning against the seriousness of the new U.S. trend.

Lausanne Conference Ends; Statement Issued**Some Agreement Reached***NC202124 Paris AFP in English 2107 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] Lausanne, Switzerland, March 20 (AFP) — The Lebanese reconciliation conference ended here today with a recommendation that a government of national unity be set up to solve Lebanon's problems, sources close to the Christian coalition Lebanese Front said. However, there was no indication that the representatives of Lebanon's rival factions had agreed to any guidelines on who should be included in such a government.

An official statement did not mention the recommendation, saying only that delegates had agreed to set up a 32-member committee to draw up constitutional reforms within the next six months.

Christian sources said delegates agreed to strengthen the four-part military commission — the Lebanese Army and the three main rival militias — under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil, to consolidate the Lebanese ceasefire. They also reaffirmed a resolution taken at the first conference session in Geneva four months ago on the "Arab nature and identity of Lebanon," the sources added.

The grim faces of the departing delegates echoed the view of many observers that the conference had not made as much progress as they had hoped. "We have saved face" said Robert Franjiyah, son of former Maronite President Sulayman Franjiyah. Shi'ite Amal leader Nabih Birri would only say: "It's over — it's finished," as he left with his bodyguards laden with luggage.

Earlier today, Druze Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt told reporters the conference would end in failure, and predicted "thousands of new victims" in the civil war. Mr. Junblatt, who flew to London after the conference ended, had blamed the failure on Mr. Franjiyah, his Christian former ally in the opposition National Salvation Front.

Mr. Franjiyah angrily protested a proposed accord to reduce the powers of the traditionally Christian president in favor of the Moslem prime minister at talks yesterday. This outburst was doubly unexpected because Mr. Franjiyah is a traditional foe of Mr. Al-Jumayyil's family, and reputedly a close ally of Syria, officially an observer, but wielding much behind the scenes power. Christian and Moslem sources said last night's document was proposed after strong pressure on all delegations from Syria.

Junblatt Comments Before Departing*NC201418 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] The Voice of the Mountain correspondent in Lausanne reports that Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt told journalists at noon today: I have nothing to do in Lausanne.

He stated: As for me, I no longer have anything to do here. He

questioned what the Lebanese forces are fighting for. He said: We, the Progressive Socialist Party and the Amal Movement, are fighting for a historic, unified, progressive and secular Lebanon. The Lebanese forces, however, are fighting for an extinct class. If I were in their place, I would change my views.

Asked further about the conference, Junblatt said: At the last moment, any extremist can impede the negotiations. The conference, however, may conclude with a statement, but not an actual solution to the Lebanese issue.

Conference Delegates Depart*NC210741 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Mar 84*

[Text] The heads of the delegations [to the National Dialogue Conference] began leaving Lausanne yesterday evening. [Amal Movement leader] Nabih Birri left the conference hall directly for Geneva airport at 1950 to take a special plane to Paris. It has been reported that Birri might make a European tour that will include Rome and the Vatican.

[Progressive Socialist Party leader] Walid Junblatt left Lausanne for London yesterday evening. [Former] President Camille Sham'un will leave Lausanne for Paris this morning. The rest of the delegation heads — [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam; 'Adil 'Usayran, [former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies]; and Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, [Phalangist Party leader] — will leave Lausanne for Larnaca and then Beirut this morning.

President Amin al-Jumayyil will leave Lausanne for Paris today, according to a statement made by the French President.

Text of Statement Issued*NC202036 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Mar 84*

["Text" of Lausanne conference final statement, issued on 20 March]

[Text] The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference, held in Lausanne from 12 to 20 March 1984, having made a great stride in studying the constitutional, political and social topics submitted to it, making imperative the formation of a constituent committee that will prepare a constitution for the future and that will consist of legal and political experts, unanimously agrees on:

1. A cease-fire and the drawing up of a security plan based on the separation of the combatant forces; the withdrawal of heavy weapons; the preparation of a plan for the return of the army to its barracks; charging the internal security forces with the responsibility for maintaining security and adding to their ranks conscripts and army reserves; the formation of a higher military and political committee under his excellency the president that will be responsible for the implementation of the security plan; and the adoption of the appropriate decisions and measures in light of the aforementioned principles.

2. A halt to all information campaigns.

3. Formation of a constituent committee to prepare a draft constitution for the Lebanon of the future. The committee will be made up of 32 members chosen by his excellency the president in cooperation with the members of the national dialogue body. The committee will submit a report on the outcome of its work within 6 months.

4. The dialogue body will continue its consultations and will meet at the invitation of the president.

5. The conferees praise the constructive role played by representative of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Excellency Minister Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mas'ud; and His Excellency Vice President of the Syrian Arab Republic 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the representative of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

6. The conference addresses thanks to Vaud [Swiss canton] authorities and the federal authorities for their good hospitality and the attention they gave to ensure its work under the best conditions.

Participants Comment on Results of Conference

NC210644 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Referring to the Lausanne conference's outcome, Walid Junblatt has reportedly said that he prefers his next meeting to be with the Lebanese Forces Command — which is involved in action on the ground — rather than with the two leaders of the Lebanese Front.

[Former] President Camille Sham'un said meetings will continue in Beirut. We have agreed on [the formation of] a government, he said, but not on the names of its members or its details.

[Former] President Sulayman Franjiah made it clear that he was not speaking from a sectarian stand when he defended [the jurisdictions of] the presidency.

In Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad said Syria will exert every possible effort to help the Lebanese people achieve their national reconciliation, which he described as both a Syrian and Arab strategic objective.

Franjiah Views Salvation Front

NC210818 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] *AL-ANWAR* today publishes an interview with [former] President Franjiah, conducted before the Lausanne conference concluded its work. In this interview, Franjiah said the reason he disagreed with the National Salvation Front is that the other members reneged on what they had agreed on in Damascus before going to Lausanne. They had agreed on several issues, including the following:

1. Rejecting any discussion of partition, cantons and federalism,
2. Abolishing the one-party domination, and

3. Endorsing the Constitution as a base for political reform.

Franjiah added: When we arrived in Lausanne, I was stunned to see the pillars of the National Salvation Front speak to their own liking in the name of the front. This is why I announced that the front's role is over. Nevertheless, this does not mean that I have joined the Lebanese Front, with which I disagree over its premises, its dealings with Israel and its cantonization scheme. Franjiah added: My final stand of rejecting any tampering with the president's jurisdictions is not based on sectarianism. I am convinced that this amendment [of the jurisdictions] — which was included in the paper put forward in the meeting — will not achieve Lebanese unity and, therefore, does not help terminate Lebanon's continuing crisis.

In conclusion, Franjiah said: We already have the Constitution, which represents a possible draft solution. This document was recognized by all parties as a starting point for a serious discussion which could lead to a national solution. My relationship with President al-Asad, Franjiah added, has not been shaken and will not be shaken because it is a strategic relationship.

Pierre al-Jumayyil Comments

GF210852 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne, 21 Mar (WAKH) — Phalangist Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil has stated that the war raging in Lebanon is not among its children, but between the Soviet Union and the United States.

In a statement to a WAKH correspondent in Lausanne, Pierre al-Jumayyil said that those taking part in the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference do not represent the Lebanese and that the only people who represent the Lebanese are the members of the National Assembly, whom he described as being good people.

The leader of the Phalangist Party lauded the Saudi role in Lebanon. He said that the Syrian role is positive and that it is in the interest of the Syrians to restore Lebanon to normal life, since Syria is the twin-sister of Lebanon.

On the constituent committee, which the dialogue conference issued a resolution on, he said that it will stem from the National Assembly and that it will be under the supervision of the national coalition government.

Birri Views Conference, Cease-Fire

PM161655 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 15 Mar 84 p 15

[Interview with Shi'ite leader Nabih Birri, by Aldo Sofia in Lausanne, on 14 March]

[Text] Lausanne, 14 Mar — *LA REPUBBLICA*: Mr Birri, is there any hope that the cease-fire will hold this time?

Birri: I am by no means sure of it. We asked for a truce even before Lausanne. We do indeed want peace, but we must defend

ourselves, after all. We can only hope. But how can one trust the Christian militia? Have they not said repeatedly that they do not consider themselves bound by the decisions taken at this conference?

LA REPUBBLICA: You have again called for Amin al-Jumayyil's resignation.

Birri: Yes, we have by no means relinquished this aim. We consider Amin al-Jumayyil responsible for the bombardments of the Shi'ite neighborhoods, hundreds of deaths and the tragedy of 25,000 refugees. There are three possibilities: that Al-Jumayyil resign spontaneously and as soon as possible; that he be dismissed by a parliamentary vote; or that (through a vote in the Chamber of Deputies) his mandate be reduced from 6 to 2 years. Thus, we could have another vote for a new president in 6 months at most.

LA REPUBBLICA: But Syrian head of state Al-Asad does not agree to this.

Birri: That is true. Syria is working for Lebanese unity and believes that to achieve this objective it is necessary to salvage Amin al-Jumayyil. But I tell you frankly that we see things entirely differently. Without Al-Jumayyil, agreement and national reconciliation will be easier.

LA REPUBBLICA: What has Al-Jumayyil's response been?

Birri: He has replied: "I was democratically elected and will always observe the constitution — either the present one or a new one." We shall see whether he is sincere. Be that as it may, I will only meet with him again if he agrees to stand trial for the crimes that he has committed and agrees to our program of domestic reforms.

LA REPUBBLICA: What is in fact the least that "Amal" wants to achieve in Lausanne?

Birri: The end of confessionalism in the nation's political life. The future Lebanese citizen must not feel he is a citizen solely on the basis of his religion. There must be a nonconfessional and democratic Lebanon. Only then will we have civil peace. Of course, nobody can eliminate Lebanon's special characteristic; that is, the coexistence of 17 different religions. We do not want that. But let them not talk to us about federalism or confederalism or cantonization. It would be just another way of splitting the Lebanese. In our opinion, the country's unity cannot be challenged, and the country's division is a plan of the Phalangist camp. But if this plan prevails, the war can only continue.

LA REPUBBLICA: There is also the problem of the military occupation — Syrian — and in the south, where there is a Shi'ite majority, Israeli.

Birri: This is partly why we say that southern Lebanon's liberation is an absolute priority. One cannot think about national reconciliation as long as the occupation of the south continues. How is it to be achieved? By every means, though for the time being the quest for a political solution must prevail. The international community cannot ignore this problem which, if

left unresolved, threatens to spark off another radicalization. There are UN resolutions calling for Israel's unconditional withdrawal, and the blue helmets must play a more active role. Let Jerusalem honor these resolutions, and we will undertake to guarantee Israel the security of its northern borders.

LA REPUBBLICA: Is this what you will be saying during your visit to two European capitals in the coming weeks?

Birri: Certainly. This is what I will be asking Mitterrand, who invited me to Paris. And it is what I will be repeating in Rome, where I have been invited by the Vatican. I do not know whether I will have a meeting with Pope John Paul II as well. But I certainly hope to meet with the Italians' principal political leaders.

Karami On Lausanne Results

*PM201529 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
16 Mar 84 pp 1-2*

[Report on interview with former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, by Wahib Muhammad Murad in Lausanne — date not given]

[Excerpts] Lausanne — In a comprehensive interview with *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who is one of the Lebanese leaders attending the national dialogue conference in Lausanne, has stressed that the conference is likely to succeed. He expressed gratitude for the efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia and Syria to promote national reconciliation and end the war. He declined the premiership and "official work."

Karami began the interview by hailing the cease-fire which, he said, is a positive indication of willingness to work for Lebanon's salvation. He described the atmosphere of the meetings held so far as being rather serious and positive, which is a sign that we will succeed, God willing. The fact that issues are being discussed with the required frankness and seriousness is a good sign, he added.

Karami also said: We have not come to Lausanne to get acquainted with one another. We are already acquainted. We also have not come here to waste time and give the combatants more opportunity for further destruction and to kill more Lebanese people. On the contrary, we are in Lausanne to find radical and final solutions. He affirmed that the collective Lebanese desire to end this tragic situation and form a government of national unity to implement the necessary political program or solutions is the best cease-fire guarantee.

He added: I believe that, once an agreement is reached, the militias should be dissolved and the arms taken from them so that no group will be able to play havoc with Lebanon's security and with the lives and properties of the Lebanese people. I anticipate success, because the regime has abrogated the 17 May agreement which means confirmation of Lebanon's Arab identity. The Phalangist Party has in fact supported this when it expresses support for all decisions adopted by the president of the republic.

Commenting on the partition plot and other such ideas, Karami said: We are against any idea which leads to partition, because a partitioned Lebanon cannot survive. At the conference, we have answered and categorically refuted the views of those who proposed the idea of a federation. I do not believe that those who presented these ideas will insist on them to the end. This is perhaps their way of getting what they consider to be an acceptable formula and system for Lebanon. We say that we want our rights and we want a democratic Lebanon with justice and equality for all.

On the required reforms, Karami said: The constitution and the Lebanese formula — in other words, the Lebanese system — must be reformed. Our constitution dates back to 1926, and it was mostly derived from the French constitution. We know for a fact that the French constitution has been amended more than five times. So it is unthinkable that, with all the changes in the Lebanese society since 1926, we should still say that the constitution is sacrosanct and should not be reformed to conform to the present realities. Such talk is unacceptable. Only the divine books are sacrosanct. Anything which is man-made should be amended and reformed in accordance with the needs and interests of the people.

He added: President al-Jumayyil's abrogation of the agreement with Israel has opened the way for agreement, through this dialogue, on political reforms and amendments. It calls for optimism.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Karami whether or not he is willing to accept the post of prime minister. He replied: I am actually refraining from official work because I feel that I can better serve my principles and nationalism outside the government. I thank those who contemplate nominating me for their confidence, and I hope we will succeed in choosing someone who is indeed capable of shouldering this national duty.

On the question of withdrawals from Lebanon, Karami said: The Israeli withdrawal is everyone's main preoccupation and we believe that national resistance is the way to force Israel to withdraw. The Lebanese people should unite and cooperate in pursuit of this objective. We consider that an armistice exists. This is something which we take for granted. On the basis of the armistice agreement, Israel should realize that Lebanon cannot forfeit one iota of its sovereignty. Lebanon is not in a state of war with it. It was Israel which attacked Lebanon and occupied part of the Lebanese territory. UN Security Council resolutions 508 and 509 commit Israel to complete and unconditional withdrawal. Our rights are clear and we are prepared to defend them with all our resources.

Karami emphasized that the question of Syrian withdrawal is not a problem because once the Israelis have withdrawn and a just and effective government has been established, we can achieve a Syrian withdrawal through coordination and cooperation. Everyone realizes that what constitutes a danger to Lebanon is also a danger to Syria.

Prime Minister Al-Wazzan Views Lausanne Talks
NC201822 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has said that he is committed to the nationalist Islamic demands which the Islamic grouping approved in March 1978, part of which are being put forward now in Lausanne. Al-Wazzan expressed disgust for the campaign against him, which according to him has become slanderous. He affirmed that he will not remain silent and that the necessary answer will come at the appropriate time.

To questions on political subjects, Al-Wazzan replied: God willing, it will be a good thing.

Asked for his opinion yesterday on the work of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne and the developments in the country, al-Wazzan told reporters: I ask you to relieve me of answering questions about what is taking place at the Lausanne conference as long as I am in the premiership and the government is not participating in this conference. As I previously said, it is clear that Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim is not taking part in the conference's sessions.

This does not mean that I am not interested in this matter. On the contrary, I am very interested in the situation and I am following this up. Moreover, when the Geneva conference convened, I handed the president a memo including the nationalist Islamic demands which the Islamic organizations sponsored in 1974 and 1975, and which the Islamic grouping sponsored on its foundation in 1976. These demands are similar to the Islamic and nationalist demands now being presented at the Lausanne conference. Likewise, I handed to former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam a copy of a document approved by members of the Islamic grouping in March 1978 on the question of accord. Some of the demands in the document are now being presented at the Lausanne conference. They manifest the views of members of the Islamic grouping on these points. There is no doubt that I am committed to these demands. I hope that they will be achieved because it will be a big step toward building a stable and secure Lebanon. Al-Wazzan promised to provide reporters with a copy of the memo and the document.

The following question was put to Al-Wazzan: In spite of your nationalist stances which are known to all the Lebanese people — particularly during the Israeli incursion and the siege of Beirut when you exposed yourself to various dangers on the streets — we see you now silent in the face of many personal and political campaigns against you. Why all this silence?

Al-Wazzan replied: I ask you not to make me break my silence, which I have adhered to out of my belief that statements are futile in such circumstances. I definitely will not remain silent, and the necessary answer will come at the appropriate time, when statements and reminders will be useful. He who thinks that government work is merely an individual's desire for power is wrong. You can see now how the conferees in Lausanne are suffering in spite of their efforts and in spite of all that they represent and their strength. This shows our constant suffering in power and our tolerance. I have said enough, and promise you further details at the appropriate time.

PSP Radio Comments on Conference Results

NC210835 (Clandestine) *Voice of the Mountain in Arabic*
to Lebanon 0800 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The results of the Lausanne conference were as bad as was expected by Walid Junblatt, at least in terms of the hopes that the Lebanese had pinned on the conference. The Lebanese hoped that Amin al-Jumayyil would give up his Phalangist, fascist and opportunist policy and would safeguard the present and future generations and institutions. Instead, he defended the privileges of one faction at the expense of others.

Amin al-Jumayyil's attitude, which represents the political knot of the Maronite faction, prevented the conference from reaching an agreement on radical reforms and made it issue a statement on a cease-fire, on the disengagement of forces, and on the role of the Internal Security Forces, which also included vague points on political, economic and social reform through the formation of a constituent body.

NSP Military Commander Discusses Cease-Fire

NC161837 Paris AFP in English 1832 GMT 16 Mar 84

[By Carol Hakim]

[Excerpts] Al-Mukhtarrah, Lebanon, March 16 (AFP) — Lebanon's warring factions must disengage on the battlefield if a cease-fire announced Tuesday at the national reconciliation talks in Switzerland is to be fully applied, opposition Druze military leader Colonel Sharif Fayyad — a former Lebanese Army officer who now heads the militia forces of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) — said here today. Since the cease-fire was announced, sporadic fighting has continued in Beirut and in the Ash-Shuf mountains south and east of the city, with particularly heavy clashes today along the so-called "Green Line" separating Moslem West from Christian East Beirut.

A proposal made at Lausanne for all militia forces to pull back 700 meters from their current front lines would not work in practice, particularly in Beirut and in the mountain regions of Suq al-Gharb and 'Alayh, Col Fayyad said. "A pullback of that kind in these sectors, and particularly in Beirut, would oblige militiamen and soldiers to in some cases withdraw into inhabited areas," Col Fayyad told the AFP.

The PSP had proposed that the strategic mountain locality of Suq al-Gharb, southeast of here, be turned into a "demilitarized zone" and handed back to its civilian inhabitants, he added. Suq al-Gharb, which since last September has seen some of the heaviest fighting of the war, overlooks the presidential palace in the Beirut suburbs. Government troops entrenched there have come under heavy attack from PSP forces. The PSP would pull back its troops from villages nearby if the proposal were agreed upon, Col Fayyad said.

In Beirut, opposing militias could each pull back one block from their current positions, he said, adding that the security committee set up to enforce the cease-fire would have to "examine each particular case separately to find the correct solution."

The question of Beirut International Airport, which since February 6 has been controlled along with the rest of west and southwest Beirut by opposition Druze and Moslem militias, "should be dealt with along with that of the port," Col Fayyad said. The airport is now controlled by the dissident Sixth Brigade of the Lebanese Army, which refused to fight Druze and Moslem forces when they took over West Beirut. The port is controlled by the right-wing Christian militia known as the Lebanese Forces.

On March 8, the leader of the opposition Shi'ite Moslem Amal movement, Nabih Birri, proposed that the airport be reopened immediately. But this was refused by the Lebanese Forces, who demanded that the road leading to the airport should be controlled by a commonly-approved force. "We consider that the road to the airport is now safe," Col Fayyad said, adding that "in any case, the airport was open for a year, in spite of the fact that it was under the control of the army, and certain groups did not have access to it." However, the airport is unlikely to be reopened soon, Col Fayyad said.

He added that a return to their homes of Christian residents who were expelled from the Ash-Shuf mountains last September was now possible after a meeting in Lausanne between Mr Junblatt and right-wing Christian leader Damille Sham'un. "But it will take time," he said.

Security Committee Again Fails To Meet

NC201310 Beirut *Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1215 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee did not meet again today as the representatives of both the Amal movement and the socialists refused to attend, and criticized the meeting's venue.

It was learned today that French Ambassador Fernand Wibaux has asked the French contingent's commanders to transform one of the military buildings near the As-Sanawbar Palace into a permanent headquarters for the security committee in order to provide an atmosphere satisfactory to all the parties.

Indications of Israeli Withdrawal Reported

NC210807 Beirut *Domestic Service in Arabic* 0800 GMT
21 Mar 84

[Text] According to information from Sidon, there are indications that the Israelis will start withdrawing from the Sidon area to the Az-Zahrani area in a very short time. Intensive Israeli military movements and motorized and foot patrols have been observed. Checkpoints were set up on the coastal road between Tyre and Az-Zahrani.

Approximately 50 Israeli M-113 armored personnel carriers took up positions in the vicinity of the Az-Zahrani-Tapline refinery yesterday morning after traversing the coastal road from Tyre to Az-Zahrani.

'Senior Figure' Reportedly Arrives

NC210841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT
21 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the [Lebanese] south has reported that a large Israeli helicopter landed in Sharhabil, in Al-Awwali, at 0945 today. The correspondent learned that the helicopter carries a senior Israeli figure accompanied by several senior officers.

Israeli Patrol Attacked in South Lebanon

NC201927 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Text] The national resistance men this afternoon carried out a new operation against the enemy Israeli forces by detonating an explosive device in the Al-Qannaya—Al-Qayya'—Al-Fawqa area in Sidon when an armored Israeli patrol passed through the area. It was reported an enemy vehicle was destroyed and several soldiers were killed or wounded.

The occupation forces sealed off the area and cut the Al-Qayya'—Sidon—Al-Qannaya junction. Israeli ambulances were seen rushing to the scene of the operation.

Israeli Helicopters Overfly Al-Biq'a' 20 Mar

NC201316 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1245 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Israeli helicopters have been overflying the Western Al-Biq'a' — specifically over the Al-Qir'awn lake banks — since 1400. Earlier, the Israeli forces closed the Ghazzah road because Palestinian groups infiltrated the area.

Clashes in Beirut, Mountain Areas Continue

NC201835 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1730 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the [Beirut] city center, Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Riyad as-Sulh, Al-'Ayzariyah and Sahat ash-Shuhada' areas today came under violent shelling from the positions of Amin al-Jumayyil's army and the Phalangist gangs of his father. A number of people were killed or injured. Grad missiles and 60-mm and 82-mm mortars were used.

At 1605, the township of Kayfun came under medium- and heavy-machine gun fire as well as B-7 shellfire from the positions

of Amin al-Jumayyil's army in Suq al-Gharb. Between 1620 and 1635, the western quarter in 'Alayh and Ra's al-Jabal axis came under sporadic 23-mm machine gun fire from the positions of Amin al-Jumayyil's army in Al-Qammatiyah. At 1630, the Ash-Shuwayfat square came under shelling, killing two and injuring six civilians. In addition, Al-Khandaq Al-Ghamiq was shelled and sniper fire was directed from the Abu Jawdah building at the Madi quarter and the Mar Mikha'il church.

At 1635, the township of 'Aytat came under sniper fire from the army positions in Suq al-Gharb. At 1650, the Baysur hills came under 60-mm and 120-mm mortar fire from the positions of Amin al-Jumayyil's army in Suq al-Gharb. At 1745, the areas of Beirut center, Riyad as-Sulh, Al-'Ayzariyah, and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq again came under 60-mm and 82-mm mortar fire and rocket fire. At 1820, the Ra's an-Nab' axes came under sporadic 60-mm mortar fire and intensive sniper fire. At the time this newscast was being prepared, these axes were still being subjected to spiteful Phalangist shelling.

Ambassador to U.S. Returns for Consultations

NC191052 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT
19 Mar 84

[Text] 'Abdallah Abu Habib, Lebanese ambassador to the United States, arrived in Beirut from Washington last night. He was recalled by the Foreign Ministry for consultations.

At 1030 today, Ambassador Abu Habib held a lengthy meeting with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk.

Amal Dismisses Report on Ministry Incident

NC171709 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1652 GMT
17 Mar 84

[Text] A responsible source in the Amal Movement has denied reports disseminated by some private radios, known for their cheap instigation and intrigues. These reports concern the break-in of the office of the director general of the Ministry of Information by gunmen belonging to the Amal Movement, as claimed by these radios.

The Amal movement would like to reiterate to the public its keen interest in preserving public institutions and their legality. This has been unequivocally evident in the experience through which devout citizens have been passing in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Address Follows Cabinet Oath

*JN201711 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and the ministers took the constitutional oath before President Hafiz al-Asad at 1200 today on the occasion of the formation of the cabinet in accordance with Decree No 694 dated 11 March 1984.

The oath reads: I swear by Almighty God to loyally preserve the democratic, republican, and popular regime; to respect the Constitution and the laws; to serve the interests of the people and the safety of the homeland; and to work and struggle in order to achieve the objectives of the Arab nation in unity, freedom, and socialism.

After the constitutional oath, photographs were taken of the president with the members of the new cabinet. The president then met with the cabinet members in the Hall of Conferences in the presidential palace, gave them his directives, and provided them with a comprehensive picture of the internal, Arab, and foreign situation as well as Syria's stands toward the main issues.

During his talk on internal affairs, the president said: The workers, peasants, and other toilers are the main power on which we depend and to which we must direct our efforts and actions. The president stressed that the cabinet and every minister should assume full responsibility, and that every cabinet member should consider his post a task, duty, and responsibility, and not a privilege. He called on the ministers to pay attention to the people's problems and everyday affairs, to increase their cohesion with the masses and interact with them, and to work tirelessly in order to serve the masses' interests and deal with the problems facing them.

The president drew attention to the burdens which our battle against imperialism, Zionism, and agent reactionaries throw on the shoulders of Syria, its masses, and its economy. He pointed out the importance of strengthening the national economy and bolstering the public sector and its role, and the need to direct efforts toward increasing and improving production, fighting squandering, and consolidating Syria's intrinsic potential and productive capabilities.

The president expressed confidence in the ability and potential of our workers, peasants, and the rest of the laborers and producers as well as his confidence in their enlightenment and readiness to perform their duties toward the homeland. The president said: Our internal situation is solid and calls for confidence in ourselves and in our ability to continue our march steadily and successfully. He added: Our confidence in our people is great and boundless, and the people are the guarantee for continuing to push ahead our march. He said: Our people are enlightened and cannot be deluded by the utterances of the agent reactionaries who are mere tools of the people's enemies. The Muslim brotherhood gang failed to delude our people in the past because our people know Islam as progress, justice, and liberation, and not reactionary acts, criminal deeds, and agency.

The president then talked about Arab affairs and emphasized Syria's adherence to its principled stands toward the pan-Arab

issues and Arab relations. He said: We will continue our Arab line and our concept of Arab solidarity. We are eager to maintain Arab solidarity and there can be no change in our stand toward the need to achieve a real Arab solidarity that is hostile to the imperialist and Zionist schemes and that expresses the nation's aspirations, aims, and interests.

The president added: We will not accept any solidarity outside this framework. We reject any solidarity that places us under the U.S. and Zionist umbrella. We are ready to cooperate for a real solidarity. However, we cannot be deceived by words from here or there. We depend on deeds and stands. We will continue to explain to our Arab brothers our concept and how we view the right way to safeguard the Arab rights, interests, and dignity. We will continue to struggle in order to explain this concept and we will be happy if our concept agrees with that of our brothers.

Touching on the Lebanese situation, the president emphasized that Syria will continue to exert every possible effort in order to help the fraternal Lebanese achieve national accord. He said: This accord is a strategic target for Syria and will remain our target despite the difficulties that might emerge. The president stressed the importance of the victory achieved for the Lebanese people, Syria, and the Arab nation by the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, asserting that this victory is not the end of victories, that the difficulties and plots faced are not the end of difficulties and plots, and that the road in front of us is long and difficult because imperialism and its agents will try to create problems and difficulties for us.

The president said: Our stands are principled and we adhered to these stands despite the political, economic, and military threats and pressures. Despite the policy of the gun and warship we were not moved away from our stand under the toughest and most difficult circumstances, but held out and triumphed. The president added that we did not and will not cede our policy, which will remain a policy hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and agent reaction. He said: we will continue our march along our line with greater determination and greater confidence in victory. We will not allow ourselves to relax. Every victory we achieve will increase our determination and strength, and will increase our people's confidence in themselves and in their ability to defeat the enemies.

Regarding foreign relations, the president said: Our relations with the Soviet Union are good. They are strategic relations that respond to the two countries' interests, and not opportunist or temporary relations. We meet with the Soviet Union in our stands toward the main issues. Our special experience has emphasized to us the importance of these relations and the need to develop them. There is an eagerness by both sides to bolster them in all fields.

The president called on every ministry to work within its field for promoting relations and cooperation with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist countries. He said: This trend is safer to safeguard our decision because dealing with the socialist countries is based on equality, mutual respect, and common interests.

The president said: We are ready to cooperate with all those who wish to cooperate with us on these bases.

Concluding, the president wished the cabinet members success in their work and in serving the people's masses.

AL-QABAS on Aliyev Visit, MIG's

GF211610 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Mar 84 pp 1, 19

[Article by the diplomatic editor]

[Excerpts] They now say that Geydar Aliyev has become the Middle East man in the Kremlin. This rising one from the "Asian District" of the republic of great Russia may be the most capable, within the new Soviet leadership, of comprehending the psychological earthquake in the Middle East. And as he emerges from the "iron room", that is the KGB, he is mastering without doubt the change in this region which seems to be the foremost priority in the Soviet bets. This is at least what the analyses of the "Soviet experts" in Western Europe reflect.

They also say that the exciting arrangement within the Syrian authority, namely announcing the appointment of the prospective successor to President Hafiz al-Asad, was timed with Aliyev's visit to Damascus to seem as if it had been approved by the Soviets after Moscow lifted its reservations about Rif'at al-Asad.

The fact is that at the time when the appointment of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rif'at al-Asad, and Zuhayr Mashariqah as vice presidents was announced, there were formations taking place within the armed forces and the various security bodies in order to guarantee the Soviet influence in Syria, although there are those who talk, metaphorically, about the "Soviet sickness" in Syria. It is true that Moscow does not "possess" a strong man to succeed the strong man, but it has the ability to secure a balance of power that serves its interests.

The first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers [Aliyev] signed with the Syrian officials a new military protocol that includes the following two clauses: 1. Complementing the electronic defense system in Syria after it has become apparent that the Americans did provide Israel, according to the revived strategic agreement, with a new communications network effectively linked to American satellites. This network includes a station for analyzing the photographs transmitted by these satellites, and is similar to the one that existed in Asmara prior to the Marxist take over the Ethiopia.

2. Revolutionizing the Syrian Air Force so that the effectiveness of the Syrian air defenses is not confined to the ground-to-air missiles since Syria has to shift its military preparations from the defensive stage to the offensive stage. In this regard, the Soviet Union will supply Syria with MIG-29 planes as well as MIG-31 planes which are currently being developed.

Damascus speaks with great confidence about "the changes," but it admits the existence of differences in viewpoints between it and Moscow regarding the stand on the Gulf war. This is what Aliyev's visit could not overcome, although Syrian sources stress that consultations will continue in order to crystallize a joint

conception that will end this war for the benefit of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The same sources stressed to *AL-QABAS* that Damascus will soon carry out an active diplomatic role at the level of establishing the bases of communications between some Gulf capitals and the Soviet capital. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is expected to make a tour of a number of Gulf states after the results of the Lebanese-Lebanese dialogue in Lausanne crystallize.

This tour comes, just as the sources always say, in light of Syrian-Gulf contacts that discuss the limits of the Soviet role in the Gulf war and the possibility of reaching a solution or at least a partial solution that would prevent the escalation of the conflict to the extent that the Gulf becomes, just as Lebanon did, a contact line between Washington and Moscow.

In Damascus, they also say to you that the month of March will be decisive as far as the Gulf war is concerned whether at the military or the diplomatic level and that the results of this will crystallize next month. The Syrian officials say, quoting Aliyev, that the U.S. administration, which actually withdrew from Lebanon, is now trying to boost the situation in the Gulf to its maximum limit. And according to what the senior Soviet official said in the Syrian capital, Moscow has resorted to the specific and defined alternatives after having realized that the United States decided to run the war. He indicated that the situation in the Gulf has become extremely sensitive since the Soviets will not under any circumstance allow the Americans to take any step, whether military or political, in the direction of the Gulf and that this stand has directly or indirectly been conveyed to the United States.

The Americans are not allowed to advance in the Gulf. This is what Aliyev said in Damascus. And this simply means that the Gulf people must move, especially at this moment, in order to reach a settlement for the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. Many people in Damascus and in other places have started talking about the details of the settlement. Within this framework comes Khaddam's anticipated tour, of course, after the Lebanese crisis — which nobody doubts together with the Gulf crisis forms a united inflamed mass which (Maxime Rodinson) says dates back to the days of the prophet Moses — cools even if only relatively.

There is no doubt that we have thundering weeks ahead of us, but who will play the music for the one that beats the drums in the Gulf?

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

JN201838 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 20 Mar (SANA) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Talab Ibrahim arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria within the framework of consultations between the two brotherly countries on various matters and issues in the region. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', the Algerian ambassador in Damascus, and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a statement to newsmen upon his arrival, Dr Ibrahim said that he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, dealing with the current Arab situation and the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Ash-Shar' Receives Ibrahim

JN202050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' received Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim at 1930 today. The meeting was attended by Hanin Hatim, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Salih Boujoumaa, the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

UK House of Lords Member Meets PNC Speaker

JN171754 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 17 Mar (SANA) — PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has asserted that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, plays an important pan-Arab role in the battle of confrontation and that any attempt to ignore that role will further complicate the situation in the region. During his reception of Lord Reay, member of the UK House of Lords and rapporteur of the political committee of the Council of Europe, here today, Al-Fahum said that Europe should not sit under the U.S. canopy when matters are linked to European policies toward the region and the Palestinian Arab people. He said that the unilateral agreements that Israeli concludes with some Arab sides will not solve the problems, but will further complicate them.

Al-Fahum also pointed out that no Arab ruler has the right to speak for the Palestinian Arab people and that the Palestinian masses reject the establishment of their state on another Arab country's territory, asserting that the Palestinian people's struggle will continue for independence.

Meets Ba'th Official

JN172033 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and head of the foreign relations office, this evening received Lord Reay, member of the UK House of Lords. During the meeting, the talks dealt with the political situation in the region.

Comrade Haydar briefed Reay on Syria's stands toward the developments in the region, pointing to the role that Europe can play to find proper solutions to a balanced and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

UK House of Commons Delegation Leaves

JN191655 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] The UK House of Commons delegation led by member Robert Adley and a number of other members representing the Labor and Conservative Parties left Damascus today. Before leaving, Adley made a statement in which he expressed his happiness over his visit to Syria, praising the great development that the delegation sensed during its visit.

Adley also asserted that the Palestine question is the crux of the Middle East problem, and that the Arab-Israeli conflict will not end until the Palestinians regain their legitimate rights. A number of People's Assembly members saw off the delegation.

Ba'th Official Receives PLFO Members 18 Mar

JN181512 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 18 Mar (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command and head of the party's foreign relations office, received a delegation comprising 'Arif Salim and Sa'd Dablan, members of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman [PLFO], and a number of the front's members.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Arab region and the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracies to which the Arab nation is being exposed. The delegation expressed the PLFO's full support for and solidarity with Syria in its confrontation with the capitulatory and reactionary plans in the region to foil them in defense of the Arab nation's honor and future.

Ba'th Official Receives Greek Ambassador

JN172039 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 17 Mar (SANA) — The Greek ambassador in Damascus has asserted the support of the Greek Government and people for Syria in its struggle against imperialist and Zionist conspiracies. This came during the ambassador's meeting here this morning with Comrade Muhammad Haydar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party member and head of the party's foreign relations office.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement [PASOK] and means to promote them as well as the current situation and developments in the region. Comrade Haydar expressed his thanks to PASOK for its positions and the Greek Government's support for the Arab causes.

Palestine Broadcast on Jordan, 'Arafat, Israel
JN171437 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 1630 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Palestine Broadcast: Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Reagan has promised Israel that Jordan will only use the U.S. weapons it obtains against the Arab front led by Syria. Israel has announced that it will not object to plans for establishing and arming a Jordanian rapid deployment force. 'Arafat is affirming daily his support for the Jordanian regime and that he shares the same policy with Jordan. Where does Palestine, with which Yasir 'Arafat is supposed to be affiliated, lie? Where does the Jordanian fate lie?

Some time ago, Sharon spoke about a possibility raised by some Zionists. Sharon said: If the Iranians invade Iraq, Israel would not wait for the Iranians to reach its [Israel's] borders. It will advance toward the Iraqi borders through Transjordan. This means that it would occupy Transjordan or at least its northern part.

The Sharon scenario may happen. In pursuing its policy of aggression and expansion, Israel needs only a justification to cover its aggression. Israel's ambitions in Jordan's east Bank, particularly in the northern part of Jordan, are well known and ancient. They are similar to its ambitions in Lebanon, in controlling the Al-Litani river and Az-Zahrani refinery. The Zionists believe that as they proceed one more step toward expansion, they should forget the past steps. This means that their past steps of expansion would be consolidated. The 1967 aggression prompted the so-called moderates to raise the slogan of removing the effects of aggression, instead of liberating Palestine. The slogan of removing the effects of aggression was subsequently forgotten. It was replaced by a partial settlement in the West Bank. Then came the aggression on Lebanon which replaced all the talk about the territories occupied in 1967.

If the Israelis jumped toward Transjordan, the so-called moderates would stop talking about the West Bank in order to talk about the east Bank.

While the Zionists are viewing the position in this light, there are those on the Arab side who continue to see the situation through American eyes. They may find a threat in Syria or Iran, but they do not see the real Israeli threat facing them. Thus, Jordan is preparing for a confrontation with its brothers, or helping the United States in the Gulf as a rapid deployment force. It pledges not to use its weapons against Israel because Israel is a U.S. ally and the United States is an Israeli ally. Therefore, the Jordanian regime is an ally of U.S. allies, and so it can give such a promise.

Yasir 'Arafat now inserts himself, forgetting that he is responsible for the Palestinian problem and the threatened Palestinian destiny. He does this in order to be an ally of the Jordanian regime, as the Jordanian regime is allied with the United States, and the United States with Israel. Yasir 'Arafat moves in the trench that includes the allies. Despite this, he does not feel or recognize that he moved to the trench hostile to the Palestinian people and revolution. Color-blindness of the rightist trend has reached a point where that trend no longer distinguishes between the friends' and the enemies' camps. That blindness also reached a point, where the rightist trend moved to the enemies' camp to confront the friends' camp on the bases of narrow calculations and at the expense of the central and sacred cause, the Palestine question.

This is the meaning we understand by looking at the reactionary-imperialist-Zionist allies the United States arranges in the region, and by examining Yasir 'Arafat's position in these alliances in the face of the Arab steadfastness and confrontation forces, including the Palestinian revolution.

The Palestinian revolution has no place other than in the trench facing the Zionist-imperialist enemy. The Palestinian revolution is a revolution that confronts this enemy and is aimed at liberating the homeland that the Zionists have usurped with the support of imperialism, which helps them continue their occupation of the homeland.

Shamir, Abu-Hatzera Differences Remain After Meeting
TA201540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1522 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the TAMI faction leader has just ended. Let us go over to our Knesset correspondent Sh'ul Stav:

[Stav] Well, MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera is a media star. He emerged from the prime minister's office in the Knesset after meeting for over 1 hour with Yitzhaq Shamir and faced a battery of microphones, television cameras, and cameras. He was not the bearer of any great tidings. He said there are differences of opinion between himself and the prime minister. We, Abu-Hatzera said, propose holding elections within 45 days and the Likud presented a counterproposal for a longer period. It was decided that the talks between TAMI and the prime minister would continue. In any event, I can say — Abu-Hatzera added — that the prime minister did not ignore the reasons I raised before him. I hope to convince the Likud to agree to elections as soon as possible.

MK Abu-Hatzera denied that TAMI had promised the Likud that if elections are held as soon as possible, TAMI would join a coalition with the Likud. Abu-Hatzera said: Each election campaign is a campaign and each party makes its decisions later; the people will decide who must form the government.

MK Abu-Hatzera described reports that the initiative to hold early elections came in the wake of the Treasury's refusal to award a statutory guarantee to Nisim Ga'on [Swiss businessman closely connected with TAMI] as a figment of the imagination. I had no idea what Nisim Ga'on did during his stay in Israel; to this day I have no clue as to what was offered him and what he asked from the government, Abu-Hatzera noted.

The next meeting scheduled for the prime minister will take place at 1800 with the leaders of the coalition, including the TAMI leaders.

Coalition Committee To Decide Election Date
TA201941 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1915 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Report by political correspondent Yoram Ronen from the Knesset in Jerusalem "a few minutes ago" — viedotaped]

[Text] The meeting of the coalition leaders ended a few minutes ago with a decision to set up a committee made up of the same leaders which will meet tomorrow to decide on a convenient date for holding early elections.

Several associates of the prime minister talk this evening about elections in the summer, at the end of June or in July. The prime minister himself has not yet expressed his opinion but it appears that he will support holding elections at the beginning of September, before the Jewish holidays.

Shamir believes that by then he will be able to point to achievements in curbing inflation and perhaps reach an

arrangement that would enable a partial withdrawal from Lebanon. On the other hand, if elections are held in September Shamir may not be able to preclude a competition between David Levi and himself for the party leadership.

TAMI wants to hold elections within 2 months to prevent the possibility that David Levi or Yitzhaq Navon may lead the Likud or the Alignment respectively. The National Religious Party will do everything possible to postpone the date for elections to give it time to reorganize either with or without Hanan Porat [formerly of Tehiya].

If it really wants to, the coalition can easily drag out the debate on the election law until the end of May. At that time, according to the Alignment's proposal, the date for elections must be 100 days from the day the Knesset approves new elections, namely, in September at the earliest.

To sum up, on the issue of elections the prime minister is not rushing to make any decisions. He is seeking an interval of a few days to consider the advantages and disadvantages of holding elections either in the summer or in the fall. Ultimately, a decision by Shamir and Levi will be embraced and will be binding on the Likud and perhaps on the entire coalition.

TAMI Denies Election Support Due to Ga'on Loan
TA201240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Personalities in Switzerland who are closely associated with Nisim Ga'on have explained that he proposed a commercial transaction to the Ministry of Finance here, involving a third country. This transaction, these sources say, had already obtained very good guarantees in Switzerland.

Deputy Minister Ben-Tzion Rubin of TAMI denies that his party decided to support early elections because of the Finance Ministry's refusal to guarantee a loan, as requested by Nisim Ga'on.

According to Deputy Minister Rubin, the discussions on early elections did not even deal with Ga'on's request, which is a private — not a party — matter.

TAMI's Rubin Urges Prompt Elections, Warns Coalition
TA201413 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Text] Deputy Minister Ben-Tzion Rubin of TAMI has cautioned that if elections are not held promptly but rather in October or November, TAMI will withdraw its initiative and will not be a party to dissolving the Knesset.

According to Rubin, scheduling elections 6 months from now would be a catastrophe for the economy. Ben-Tzion Rubin pointed out that if the coalition prevents elections from being held promptly, TAMI would consider submitting a no confidence motion against the government.

Levi Says His Likud Leadership Candidacy Not Issue*TA201320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has stated that the question of his candidacy to the Likud's leadership is currently not occupying him and that all his efforts are currently directed at scoring a victory for the Likud in the elections. According to Levi, the question of the candidacy will be dealt with at the appropriate time in a friendly talk between himself and Yitzhaq Shamir. Minister Levi pointed out that also in the past he had been in favor of early elections when it became clear that the basis of the coalition had been undermined. The prime minister held a private meeting with Minister Levi following the consultation with the Likud ministers.

Peres Outlines General Party Guidelines*TA201820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Labor leader Shim'on Peres says he is confident the party will remain united during the election campaign. He believes Labor will be able to force the coalition to keep it short — up to 2 months. Jerry Cheslow asked Peres what the main issues of his campaign would be, and Peres explained how he would still try to keep his Jordan option open:

[Begin Peres recording] We suggested to tell the Jordanians that they can come either on negotiations without prior conditions, which means each side can put forward his own suggestions; or if they want to, they don't have to come on the basis of Camp David, they can come on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, which they had accepted and we had accepted; or alternatively, if they want to, they can come on the basis of the Reagan initiative, though none of us agreed completely with all the items in the proposal. [end recording]

Burg Says NRP Opposed to Early Elections*TA201915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] Upon his return to Israel, Minister Yosef Burg said that the National Religious Party is opposed to holding early elections. However, even if it is ultimately decided to hold early elections, it will take at least 3 to 4 months to make the preparations. He pointed out that his party would consider joining any coalition that will guarantee religious affairs, but that it would prefer a national unity government.

Favors 'National Unity Government'*TA211035 Tel Aviv HATZOFI in Hebrew 21 Mar 84 p 1*

[Report by Sha'ul Schiff]

[Excerpts] "The religious Zionists overseas want a strong representation in the next Knesset for national religious Jewry, and they consider the unification of the national religious camp to be

the cornerstone for achieving this," Interior and Religious Affairs Minister Dr Yosef Burg said last night upon his return from a government mission in Europe.

Dr Burg added that the religious Zionist leadership in Europe had conveyed to him that recent events in Petah Tiqva [disputes between the religious and secular groups] and elsewhere in Israel only serve to underline the vital need for a strong national religious camp. Dr Burg noted that he would exert every effort toward uniting the national religious elements and that this would be his aim in the near future. Dr Burg met with Jewish leaders in England, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland during his recent European trip, and they had all expressed fervent hopes that stability would prevail in Israel. The news of possible early elections took them by surprise, Dr Burg said.

In reply to questions put to him by newsmen on his arrival at Ben-Gurion airport last night, Dr Burg said that at least 3 to 4 months would be needed to arrange for early elections, and preparations would probably last until the Jewish New Year in September.

Regarding the elections themselves, Dr Burg said he hoped God would give him the strength, and his party colleagues the confidence necessary to enable him to remain at the head of the national religious movement.

"We are not the only ones who oppose early elections," he stated, adding that in his opinion the NRP would be prepared to enter into a coalition with anyone promising to assure religious affairs. "We are in favor of a national unity government," he concluded.

Poll Shows Opinion Divided on Early Elections*TA211040 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 84 p 2*

[PORI Poll]

[Text] Opinion among the Israeli public is fairly evenly divided in favor of and against early elections, similar to the situation in the Knesset.

This emerged from a countrywide PORI poll held last week, commissioned by HA'ARETZ.

When asked: "As you know, the scheduled date of the next Knesset elections is in 18 months; in your opinion, should these elections be held earlier?" — 46.6 percent favored early elections, and 46.0 percent were against them; 1.8 percent answered "maybe" the elections should be held early; and 5.6 percent had no opinion either way.

Among pro-Alignment voters, 75.3 support early elections, while 72.7 Likud supporters are opposed to early elections. Voters for the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisra'el and Tehiya also show a majority opposed to early elections.

When these findings are analyzed according to their socio-economic composition, they reveal that those favoring early elections are primarily middle-aged adults, Israelis who have

lived here since the days of the British mandate, and people with European or American origins. Those opposed to early elections are mostly of a lower educational level, and/or come from the group of the mass immigration period between 1948 and 1952, originating in Asian and African countries.

The poll encompassed a representative cross-section of 1,200 men and women who were interviewed personally throughout the country.

Press Commentary on Call for Early Elections

Morning Press - 20 March

TA200717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *HA'ARETZ* writes that although it is hard to understand TAMI's reasoning, it is not hard to understand the need for elections — a deteriorating economy, the debacle of the Lebanese war, and the polls indicating that the Likud has lost the support of the majority. The paper writes that almost none of the parties are in good shape for an election campaign because of internal discord, or because of plans to reorganise. But, *HA'ARETZ* writes, this does not diminish the need for a quick and early vote.

DAVAR writes that the decision to hold new elections is the right step, appropriate and timely. The paper adds that we must not stand idly by in face of the ongoing and grave deterioration, especially in economic matters, and wait until time goes by on its own for a year and a half.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that the call for elections should have come 2 years ago, and that the 2 intervening years have been wretched.

Midday Press - 20 March

TA200940 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* writes that it is very rare for a faction which constitutes only about 2 and 1/2 percent of the Knesset to turn the whole country on its head. TAMI, the paper notes, had at least two goals in demanding early elections: catching the National Religious Party at the height of its internal crisis, and collecting on the promises made by the Alignment.

MA'ARIV says that if TAMI fails to change its mind following its talk today with Prime Minister Shamir, there will be no choice but to hold early elections. In that case everything must be done to assure that the election campaign is brief, economical and clean.

Morning Press - 21 March

TA210923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT
21 Mar 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HA'ARETZ* writes that the gravity and urgency of the problems confronting us require the establishment of a stable government as soon as possible, a government which will not suffer from the blackmail of splinter factions, as the paper phrases it, such as TAMI and Agudat Yisra'el. These problems also do not permit the luxuries of a protracted and wasteful election campaign. National responsibility demands that all the parties, and the two large ones in particular, set the elections for the earliest possible date and minimize the duration of the election campaign. For this, various legal regulations based on a timetable of 100 days — which is in any case exaggerated — must be changed. The legislation required to hold elections at an early date should be approved during this very Knesset session, without delays, without quarrels, and preferably unanimously.

HA'ARETZ adds that it would also be desirable to continue to try to bring about a postponement of the negotiations over the new labor agreements until after the elections. What is given only under the pressure of the elections will be in any case taken away right after them, whatever the composition of the government.

DAVAR writes that Israel is not the only democratic country in which the need to advance the elections is raised from time to time. England and other countries in which the British system is used have generally only 1 month between the dissolution of the old Parliament and the convening of the new Parliament. This is the custom in countries whose population is numbered in the tens of millions of citizens. There is no justification for the interim period to last several months as it does in little Israel.

HATZOFE writes that the parties that initiated the early elections will have to convince voters not only of the correctness of their path, but also of the need to push the country into an election campaign, one in which the timing is not right. The paper adds that the number of months left before the Knesset elections makes no difference. The time to do things is right now, and with all rapidity, to unite the ranks of the national religious camp so that the religious nationalist public can demonstrate its full stature. Many events in the nation and country have recently proven again the importance of a large, united nationalist religious party which will be able to set its stamp on the state of Israel as a Jewish state. All the components of religious nationalist Judaism must immediately exhaust all the possibilities for a unification of their ranks. The date should be set for 2 months from today, at most. This will have an economic advantage as well as decreasing the negative impact that the entire elections campaign has on the deterioration of the social situation and the polarization created among all sections of the public.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that public honesty and the good of the economy and the country make it imperative that elections are held no later than May. There is no need for a protracted propaganda campaign accompanied by a circus-like competition in the city squares. The picture in the country is clear to everyone: the nation is ripe for a decision.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that the elections must not be delayed and it calls upon the parties to guarantee that the elections campaign will express the seriousness of the decisions the public will have to make.

Correspondent on Prospects for Early Elections

TA192017 Jerusalem television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Report by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al — live in the Tel Aviv studio]

[Text] I would like to say that if we analyze the prospects for holding early elections — and this in fact is the central question — it is possible to state this evening that in addition to the opposition parties, which have 56 MK's, it is possible to add TAM, this makes 59 Knesset Members. We also know that MK Berman, as well as MK Dror Zeigerman, have promised to support this initiative. This means that all told we already have more than 60 MK's. One must also take into account the question of whether former Prime Minister Menahem Begin would show up for that vote. If that is so, we actually have a realistic — perhaps even more than a realistic — chance for a majority on Thursday, if the matter is really debated at the plenum — to hold early elections.

[Anchorman Hayim Yavin] If this happens, according to this scenario, what are we to expect in the Alignment and in the Likud? Will [former President] Navon enter into the Alignment's picture?

[Mish'al] I believe that top-level struggles are to be expected in the two large parties, the Alignment and the Likud. The main question in the Alignment, for instance, is what Yitzhak Navon will do. He left for a 1-month tour of Argentina a few days ago, and the question is whether he will return, whether he will run against Shim'on Peres; he might reach an arrangement or an understanding with him or perhaps he will opt for remaining outside the political system. The second question is what Yitzhak Rabin will do. Will he run for the post of party leader? In short, in the Alignment we have a series of open questions to which we still have no answer.

The situation is similar in the Likud, and we know that Minister Sharon announced that he would compete for the prime ministerial candidacy, and we also anticipate a move by David Levi. So in both parties we can expect high-level struggles, that is if elections are really held early.

Arens Sees Hope for Shi'ite Cooperation in South

TA201645 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walters]

[Text] The Cabinet has decided not to discuss a withdrawal to a new line in Lebanon because any such debate would have negative effects on the southern Lebanese population — particularly the Shi'ites, who shun all communication with Israel to reach

arrangements with it whenever there is word of an imminent IDF pullback.

The IDF has been making many efforts to incorporate the Shi'ites into the security arrangements in the south, although so far with little success. Still, there is hope that channels of communication with the Shi'ite leaders will result in their joining the army of the south and the militia groups.

Deliberations are now under way to raise the pay given to soldiers in the army of the south to make it comparable to salaries earned by Lebanese Army troops in order to attract new recruits.

Jerusalem believes that Syria understands that Israel has legitimate interests in southern Lebanon in terms of arrangements that will guarantee security for the Galilee settlements. This means that the Syrians must realize they have to allow Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to enjoy freedom of action in talks with Israel to reach security arrangements for the south.

Israel will not accept an arrangement based on Lebanese guarantees. If Damascus should want to provide guarantees for arrangements in the south, Israel will insist that the arrangements with Syria be discussed either directly or through the mediation of another country — although not Lebanon.

As for the UNIFIL role, Israel believes that force could greatly contribute to guarding the Sidon and Tyre refugee camps, and serve as a buffer between the IDF units and the Syrians on the eastern front.

Such statements were made yesterday to UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart by Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Arens believes that UNIFIL could also contribute to security north of the Al-Awwali.

Shamir Receives Support From Maronite Leader

TA200720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir met last night with Shaykh 'Awwad, the world president of the Maronites. They discussed cooperation between Jews and Maronite Christians throughout the world. The shaykh expressed full support for Israel and attacked Syrian attempts to dominate Lebanon. He also criticized the abrogation of the Israel-Lebanon agreement.

Lebanese Forces Yazbik on Lausanne Boycott

TA171040 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Report on an interview with Pierre Yazbik, representative of Lebanese Forces Command and envoy of Phalange Commander Fadi Afram, by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a in Jerusalem; date not given — recorded; Yazbik remarks in English]

[Text][Barne'a] The force that was the main basis of support, the backbone of Amin al-Jumayyil at the beginning of his regime,

has become his strongest and harshest opponent. The day on which Amin al-Jumayyil left for Damascus in order to save his skin at the expense of the agreement with Israel, the Lebanese Forces went to the barricades and are today seeking an alliance with their fiercest, most bitter enemy, Druze leader Walid Junblatt.

Pierre Yazbik, one of the pillars of the political Phalange Party and a member of the command of its military branch, the Lebanese Forces, told us: We are boycotting the Lausanne conference just as we did the Geneva conference since the necessary changes have not been proposed for discussion. The Lausanne conference is taking place in order to give an official seal to Syrian protection over Lebanon, to handle Lebanon's problems in the traditional frameworks which were good in 1943 but are no longer good today. What are the real changes today then? Pierre Yazbik said:

[Yazbik] The changes are springing from real politics, and real politics force us today to see and to say clearly that Lebanon is a de facto federation of communities. This de facto situation must be translated into a de jure situation. Otherwise, there is no solution to the problems of Lebanon.

[Barne'a — translates and continues] Yazbik continued: We can no longer talk about small decentralization [last word in English] here, adding a parliamentarian there or the creation of a senate in addition to the parliament. This is no solution; it is only a temporary solution. The solution for Lebanon today is a dialogue with the Druze community, with the Shi'ite community, in order to give a real and tangible form to the de facto situation.

[Yazbik] There must be a Christian canton; There must be a Druze autonomous area, a canton; there must be a Shi'a autonomous area or canton, call it whatever you want. Those cantons must be federated among each other. We are people who are compelled to live side by side. We are not saying we must love each other. There has been probably too much blood in Lebanon.

[Barne'a — translates and continues] Yazbik said there may have been too much bloodshed in Lebanon and too many problems and it is difficult to solve the entire problem by simply kissing each other. Kisses do not resolve any conflict and what is occurring in Lausanne is only an exchange of kisses. We must face the following reality, he said:

[Yazbik] Either we have to leave this country, or we have to continue killing each other, and both are not the solution, or, we get to the third, realistic approach which is: We are living beside each other; let us find the best way to continue living beside each other, hoping that one day we will be able to be living with each other.

[Barne'a — translates and continues] Pierre Yazbik is convinced that all problems may be solved through negotiations. He does not forget Israel's role, providing the following explanation: If the State of Israel gives Walid Junblatt guarantees in the form of a red line which the Syrian Army will be unable to cross in Junblatt's region, the Ash-Shuf and Jabal Lubnan region, Junblatt will be able to extricate himself from the Syrian bear hug. The cooperation between the Druze and the Christians will also

lead to closing off the channel of intolerance, as Yazbik calls it, namely, the Beirut-Damascus highway stretching from the Al-Biq'a' region into Beirut, through which the Syrians are introducing the extremist Shi'ite elements. Yazbik said this will also make it easier for Nabih Birri to show his real face as a moderate, Western statesman who is open to negotiations rather than compelling him to adopt radical positions for fear he will be removed by his radical community members.

The Christians are also aware of the Syrian reaction to their idea. Lebanon will be subject to an economic blockade [matzor] but Yazbik says there is no choice: We will have to give up the Mercedes and Cadillacs and wait for better times. Freedom has its price but tightening one's belt is preferable to driving a new Mercedes with a boot pressing against the back of your neck.

We, the Israelis, are trying to press this matter: After all, you, the Lebanese know this better than anyone else, that the Syrian reaction can also be brutal.

[Yazbik] It will be brutal. We are expecting it to be brutal, we are definitely expecting it to be brutal. It was brutal since 1975, but we made a choice; we made a choice.

We are saying to Junblatt today: Here is the solution, and the solution is only in dialogue. We can also refuse a solution, and we can sit down and continue pounding each other. There are always people who will be ready to sell weapons and bombs, and we can go on, but for how long? How long? Or, they would have to leave or we would have to leave, and they are not going to leave, and we are not going to leave, and so what?

South Lebanese Army Enlistment Increasing

TA191838 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1750 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 19 Mar (ITIM) — An unprecedented large-scale campaign to encourage enlistment in militia groups has been carried out in many southern Lebanese villages over the past few weeks.

ITIM correspondent Shlomo Hadad notes that thanks to that campaign, the number of responses is up, and now many are going to recruitment offices to volunteer for the army of the south. Many of them said they had been listening very carefully to the propaganda campaign carried on the Voice of Hope, calling on members of all sects to help guarantee the south's safety. Others were influenced by their colleagues who had already signed up and others responded to the placards that can be seen in the streets of towns, urging youths from the south to join the army.

It has been reported that the new recruits are promised a salary of 1,700 Lebanese pounds (or some 45,000 shekels). This funding comes from taxes collected from inhabitants of the south as well as from sales taxes. ITIM has learned that the terrorist organizations have stepped up their efforts to harass the army of the south, and are doing everything in their power to intimidate youths not to join it. The terrorist organizations are threatening them and offering them other incentives, anything so that they will not join the militia.

South Lebanese Militia Vehicle Attacked in Sidon
TA201453 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1432 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Text] A hand grenade was thrown at a vehicle belonging to the southern Lebanese militia in Sidon this afternoon, but no one was hurt. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the southern Lebanese army is currently reorganizing and deploying over vast areas. The terrorists are trying to prevent the new army from reorganizing by attempting to carry out attacks.

Lubrani on Christian-Druze Rapprochement in Lebanon
TA180854 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
 18 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Arab Affairs correspondent 'Oded Zaray]

[Excerpt] Israel is making efforts behind the scenes to bring about a dialogue between the Christians and Druze in Lebanon, in order to form a basis for understanding and coexistence which will also serve Israel's security needs.

Positive results were reported yesterday from Lausanne, in the second meeting between Camille Sham'un and Junblatt, which dealt among other things with the return of the Christian refugees to the Ash-Shuf area. Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, yesterday confirmed to a *HA'ARETZ* correspondent that there are such ongoing efforts, and he expressed satisfaction with the fact that they were fruitful. However, he warned that we must not expect the complicated problems to be solved in two sessions in Lausanne. It is clear that these sessions are a good sign, encouraging to those people trying to bring about a rapprochement in Lebanon.

David Levi on Redeployment, Syrian Issues
TA161405 Tel Aviv HADAHSOT in Hebrew
 16 Mar 84 p 13

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by Ilan Kfir; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Question: Why are you not deciding on the IDF redeployment in Lebanon? What are you waiting for?

Answer: The majority of ministers support an IDF redeployment in Lebanon now. The basic conditions for carrying out the redeployment are: creating security arrangements that will guarantee security for the northern settlements; and thinning out the IDF presence in Lebanon while preventing friction with the local population, primarily in the densely populated urban areas.

The Cabinet will soon decide on the time for the redeployment. It is impossible to stand there with a stopwatch and pressure the Cabinet to adopt a hasty decision. Such a move required a necessary amount of preparation in the area. The guideline for the redeployment line is to create a deterrent factor in the area against hostile elements, and it is also based on the desire to prevent the situation in southern Lebanon from returning to its earlier state.

Question: Is the government expecting cooperation with the local southern Lebanese population?

Answer: Cooperation and coordination with the local southern Lebanese elements is one of the main points of the plan. The population in southern Lebanon is sympathetic toward Israel, and its past experience has taught it to fear the same danger we want to remove. The terrorists are threatening them just as much as they are a threat to us.

Question: What are the chances of reaching an understanding with the Shi'ites?

Answer: I believe it is possible to talk to them. The hostile comments against the IDF made by the Shi'ite population were mainly a reaction to our burdensome presence in their territory, and to the limitations and the supervision we have imposed on them. I believe departure from the Shi'ite area and the easing of the pressure they have been under will change the population's attitude toward us. I believe if we are not found amidst that population, we will not be a target for terrorist acts.

Question: Has Israel already grown accustomed to the fact that the 17 May accord was unilaterally abrogated?

Answer: No, Israel will not accept this. Al-Jumayyil is wrong if he believes he would be able to establish a new political norm and not give a damn about Israel. Lebanon is presently seeking a way to find an alternative agreement [heskem] to the security arrangements in the south. Right now I cannot foresee any chance that we will want another agreement with someone who has neither the desire nor the ability to observe a political agreement. Israel should continue to foster its ties with friendly elements in Lebanon. We must not burn our bridges with these elements in reaction to Amin al-Jumayyil's unilateral move. This lets us have some hope for the future.

It would be wrong to blame ourselves for what others did to us, in the hope that a new era would begin and a new leaf would be turned over in our region. No government in Israel would have missed even the slightest chance of reaching an agreement with an Arab country, particularly Lebanon. We tried and failed. This was no illusion.

Question: Is the real winner in the battle in Lebanon Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad?

Answer: Certainly not. It is wrong to regard the Syrian president as the winner in the campaign in Lebanon. The Syrians were in Lebanon even before the Peace for Galilee war. They had absolute control over the Sarkis administration and all their current efforts and struggles are aimed at obtaining the same degree of influence they previously enjoyed.

Syria's problems in Lebanon will not end with the abrogation of the accord, they will only be exacerbated. In order to maintain what it currently has, Syria will have to pay a heavier price in Lebanon. Al-Asad has succeeded in uniting the Druze, the Shi'ites, and the terrorists opposite Amin al-Jumayyil, whom they all hate.

As a result of the agreement between Al-Asad and Al-Jumayyil, some rifts could be discerned in the pro-Syrian coalition. There is growing bitterness about Al-Asad's move, which may develop in various directions.

Question: Did we do everything to reach a direct or indirect dialogue with Al-Asad in a bid to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Lebanese problems?

Answer: Israel has initiated political activity. The Syrians have not evinced any desire for or interest in a dialogue. What has been its guideline is the extremist approach that has become a political and military strategy.

Syria is the most extremist of the Arab world countries, and regards its waving the banner of war against Israel as what sets it apart from the rest of the Arab countries, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. It is trying to prove that, in the final analysis, extremism pays.

I do not believe any present political initiative on our part would change Al-Asad's policy. At the same time, we must not despair of the possibility that the war of succession in Syria and other domestic problems would one day change the situation there.

Until that day comes, however, we must pursue a policy of deterrence vis-a-vis the Syrians. Syria must realize that if it tries to drag Israel into military tension and bring it to the brink of a clash, it will be the one to pay the full price for it.

We will not let the Syrians play any game that will provide them with an achievement or what could be regarded as such.

Labor Party Still Favors Jordanian Option

*TA191302 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT
19 Mar 84*

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres believes that King Husayn's statements need not bring about a change in the Labor Party's support of the Jordanian option.

He told our correspondent Amnon Nadav that this possibility is not principally linked to Husayn, since its main goal is to create a receptivity to negotiations, and prevent the emergence of a binational state.

ALGERIA

Finnish Prime Minister Sorsa Sees Brahimi, Abdelghani
PM161511 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish
 14 Mar 84 p 14

[Finska Notisbyran dispatch: "Sorsa in Algeria: Cooperation Can Be Made More Efficient"]

[Excerpts] Algiers — Bilateral economic issues were dominant when Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa and Algerian Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani met for talks Tuesday [13 March].

During their 2-hour meeting the two government heads agreed that the scientific, technical, industrial, and economic agreement signed 2 years ago contains many possibilities which have not been exploited. They also agreed that both sides should invest in developing more expertise. Nevertheless, they thought it possible that new agreements could be signed to facilitate the activities of commercial companies. The two sides agreed that the joint commission which was set up when the above-mentioned agreement was signed 2 years ago should hold its first meeting this fall. The meeting will take place in Algiers and be at top civil-servant level.

During the second day of his visit to Algeria Sorsa also had talks with the country's foreign minister, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, and Planning Minister Ali O'Bouzar. The day ended with a gala reception which Prime Minister Brahimi gave for Sorsa in the People's Palace.

Tuesday evening Prime Minister Sorsa's delegation had an opportunity to meet representatives of the West Saharan liberation front, Polisario. However, the two Polisario representatives were seen by Secretary of State Matti Tuovinen and not by the prime minister. At the short meeting the Polisario representatives gave an account of Polisario's goals and the current situation in the fighting. When Sorsa visited Algeria 2 years ago in his capacity as chairman of the Eduskunta Foreign Affairs Committee he personally met Polisario's representatives.

After his meeting with Prime Minister Ibrahimi, Sorsa said that as well as bilateral questions he had also touched on certain international questions. Sorsa gave an account of Finnish foreign policy positions, while for his part Ibrahimi explained his country's attitude to the situation in the Middle East, in Chad, in the Western Sahara, and in the war between Iran and Iraq.

The Iranian foreign minister happened to be in Algeria at the same time as Sorsa and there has been speculation in certain quarters of a possible meeting between the two. However, Sorsa has said that there has been no suggestion of this and that a meeting is highly unlikely.

The problems of trading links between Finland and Algeria will be investigated by a joint commission which is just now starting work. One of the intentions is to look into the possibility of increasing Finnish imports from Algeria.

The international press has frequently speculated on the possibility that Algeria is assuming some sort of mediating role in the war between Iran and Iraq. The rumors were revived when Iran's foreign minister arrived in Algeria on Monday. Algeria mediated between the United States and Iran during the drama at the U.S. Embassy a few years ago.

However, during his talks Sorsa formed the impression that at the present stage, at least, Algeria will not be playing an active role in the matter. However, unlike the other Arab states the country has preserved its neutrality in the conflict, something which in Sorsa's view makes it possible for the country to shoulder a mediating role in the future.

Guinean President Sekou Toure Comments on Visit
LD201356 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Ahmed Sekou Toure, the president of Guinea, left Algeria this morning after a 2-day working and friendly visit to our country. He was seen off by Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic and the FLN secretary general; members of the Politburo and government; government and party senior officials; the Guinean ambassador to Algeria; diplomats accredited to Algeria and the members of the Guinean community in Algeria.

President Sekou Toure, before leaving Houari Boumedienne Airport gave a statement to the press in the VIP Hall in which he said: As I announced on my arrival, I wanted to discuss all the problems concerning our two governments, two parties, and our two peoples. This wish of mine was completely fulfilled, thanks to the talks within which the spirit of struggle has prevailed. These negotiations and talks brought up the readiness and sincere wishes of our two delegations to find all the practical means which could enable us to reach a suitable and just solution for the problems currently concerning the political, economic and social life of the continent.

The Guinean president added: I am very happy with the results which emerged from our talks, and I know that the aims of the Algerian revolution and the Guinean revolution are similar. President Sekou Toure continued: Naturally I can clearly say that concerning some problems, such as the Western Sahara issue, I approved practical courses and pursuits which differ to some extent, but we are in complete agreement on securing the unity of action in finding solutions which honor Africa and guarantee the future of the cooperation among the African peoples.

President Sekou Toure ended his statement by confirming: The crux of the matter is that we are completely satisfied with the results of our talks.

Let us recall that the Algerian-Guinean talks ended this morning with a tete-a-tete meeting between Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary-general, and Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of Guinea and the secretary-general of the Guinean Democratic Party.

LIBYA

UN Security Council Session on 'U.S. Threat' Asked
LD211004 Tripoli JANA in English 0854 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 17, Mar 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya yesterday requested an emergency session of the Security Council to discuss the tense and serious situation emerging from threats by the U.S. of intended aggression against Libya.

The memorandum sent by the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau to the Security Council stated that the sending of AWACS together with a formation of U.S. fighter bombers to the Arab area is a well planned and direct aggression against the Jamahiriya from Egyptian and Sudanese territories, particularly if that is seen within the context of the statement by U.S. State Department's official spokesman in which he confirmed that these aircraft would participate in joint operations currently taken by Egypt and Sudan.

The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau in its memorandum to the Security Council stressed that what is being undertaken by the U.S. and Arab area is violation for the United Nation's charter and threat to security and peace in the area and the world.

It also pointed out that what is currently being prepared by the U.S. the American style in preparing for aggression which was previously used against the freedom of countries and people opposing domination. [sentence as received] The latest example in this respect was the invasion of Grenada.

The committee stressed that what happened in Omdurman is a play planned in advance as justification for taking aggressive acts against the Jamahiriya and allegations meant to involve her in an internal incidents facing the Sudanese regime as well as pretext to bring the aggressive American forces to the Arab area to exercise its pressure threats, and aggression on the Libyan Arab people after U.S. defeat in the Lebanon.

The memorandum emphasized that the Jamahiriya has got the right to legitimate self defence against any aggression or threat aimed at its freedom and dignity.

Sudanese Allegations Refuted

LD201953 Tripoli JANA in English 1824 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] New York, Jumada Thani 16, March 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau has sent messages to the United Nations secretary general and chairman of the Security Council refuting absolutely all allegations embodied in the message of the foreign minister of the Sudanese fascist regime. He condemned strongly the content of the message which included disgusting attack in contradiction with all international conventions and understanding and Arab morality. He also confirmed in his message the following facts.

1. The Sudan is witnessing continuous revolutions and uprisings for many years known the whole world and all over the country and the regime is trying after it failed to repress these uprisings through using all brutal means to find external excuses for the unfounded allegations against neighboring countries including my country.

2. The Sudanese regime which had faced more than 30 attempts of coup d'etat during the last years and carried out intensive liquidation operations which included all senior officials in accordance with instructions from great imperialist powers is trying through these allegations to drive the area towards international conflict and make the Sudan a play stage and bases for aggression against brother neighboring countries to the Sudan.

3. The Jamahiriya has warned many times of the seriousness of the Sudanese regime policy and provocation against the Jamahiriya. In this respect the leader of the revolution sent messages to the Arab kings and heads of states warning of the dangers of the head of Sudanese regime's press release to the *HERALD TRIBUNE* newspaper published in Paris on 2nd of April [year indistinct], when he said that he is in a state of war. Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi believed that the world must try to get rid of him through killing and he is personally ready to assist anyone who is willing to carry out this action.

4. The Jamahiriya has drawn the attention of the international community to the dangers of aggressive policy carried out by the Sudanese regime, especially what the head of this regime said in his press release to the Egyptian newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* on 17th of May 1981, in which he stated that his forces were not afraid of confronting Libya and that he was carrying out at the time necessary preparation to overthrow Al-Qadhdhafi regime. He also said in a press release to *AL-AHRAM* newspaper on 19th June 1981, in which he stated that his country was going to be a graveyard for Al-Qadhdhafi and he directed his speech to the People's Council in Kurdufan region not be astonished if they saw him leading a corps to fight Al-Qadhdhafi inside Libya.

All these announcements and aggressive intentions of the Sudanese regime and its head and these new allegations have one purpose, which is the preparation for launching an aggressive military attack against the Jamahiriya with the help of imperialist powers at the same time we confirm that the content of the Sudanese foreign minister's messages is untrue, strongly deny these allegations and draw attention to the dangers of provocations carried out by the Sudanese regime and military presence of imperialist countries which are trying to take advantage of Sudanese domestic problems and make the Sudan a cat paw and base of aggression against the Jamahiriya people and other neighboring countries of the Sudan.

[Words indistinct] strong desire of the prevalence of peace and security in the area confirm the right of self defence against any aggression by the Sudanese regime and allied imperialist powers.

Government Denies Knowledge of U.S. Memorandum
LD201946 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1855 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Mar (JANA) — A source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, commenting on statements by the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department, Alan Romberg — who said that a U.S. memorandum has been sent to Libya concerning the air raid on Omdurman — said that the Jamahiriya has no knowledge of this memorandum referred to by the U.S. official.

The source added that what had been stated by Alan Romberg in the way of provocative warnings is rejected in form and content and that the essence of this statement is aimed at covering up the hostile role that the U.S. Administration is preparing against the Libyan Arab people.

U.S., Egyptian 'Occupation' of Sudan Portrayed
LD201854 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 20 Mar 84

["JANA Confirms the Aggressive character of Egyptian and American Military Presence in the Sudan" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 16, March 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Egyptian government newspaper *AL-AHRAM* said that Egyptian forces have moved and occupied positions in Sudanese territories in accordance with direct instructions from President Mubarak. However, the newspaper which reported the news did not disclose the treacherous intentions contrived by Hosni Mubarak's regime against the Libyan Arab people and the aggressive character of Egyptian and American presence in the Sudanese territory and the aggressive intentions for these military advancement in the Sudan. The newspaper said that the Egyptian forces have been sent to the Sudan in response to what it called attempts directed against the hireling regime in the Sudan.

So the bribed agents of Cairo government are revealing their well and pre-planned objectives to establish their foot on the Sudanese territory with American will. The agents of Cairo regime are serving American policy in a better way more than was served by Kissinger, Haig, Shultz and Weinberger since they are adherents rubbing American doorsteps and agents without any moral conducts and they would not hesitate to carry out shameful actions to please Washington.

The Egyptian military move is an official declaration of occupation of the Sudan and it becomes a must for all international committees and organisations and security and peace-loved [as received] forces to stand up and condemn this direct occupation carried out on behalf of American imperialism which aims at aggression against Libya, the Arab country which strongly confronts all imperialist policies of imposing hegemony, surrender and submissiveness.

The Sudanese people who are suffering from injustice and bloody regime which is surviving under the umbrella of Egyptian and American occupation. It becomes a must to warn of the serious tragedy facing this Arab people and to speed up the process of declaration of support and help to stand against occupation forces

of Mumaluk residue and their tyrant forces and American God's war machines which threaten the freedom and dignity of this people and use it for threatening and provoking the Libyan Arab people. [sentence as received]

Egyptian Statement on AWACS Role 'Treachery'
LD211012 Tripoli JANA in English 0846 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 17, Mar 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The head of the Egyptian regime has announced officially yesterday that the American spying planes AWACS will fly in principle over Egyptian territory but no decision has been taken about flying them in Sudanese air space.

In a statement made to journalists following meetings in the Presidential Palace at Al-Qub'bah and published by the Egyptian Government's MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY he said that the task of the American planes AWACS which arrived to Egypt yesterday has been disclosed in America. These announcements are a translation of barefaced formula of an Egyptian-American treacherous decision to launch aggression against the Libyan Arab people.

The provocative visit made by the Egyptian military positions on the Jamahiriya border yesterday morning came as a confirmation of this plotted decision which is under preparation to be put militarily into action under various pretexts and in the light of a slanderous campaign launched against Libya by American propaganda and the paid media institutions in both Egypt and Sudan and also by the symbols of treason in these two countries towed to the American Administration is clearly seen as the plotter behind this aggressive act. The head of the Egyptian regime has admitted implicitly that Washington has dictated this decision and that his regime in the spirit of his submissive relations with Washington and its hidden intentions against Libya, which fights for the tearing up and the burning of all capitulatory and treacherous accords, is concerned with its implementation.

Thus it is clear that all Egyptian-American military movements both in Egypt and Sudan and also the new American deliveries of weapons including the spying planes are directed against Libya. The strongest proof of this is represented by the content of the official statement made by the head of the Egyptian regime yesterday, which reveals publicly his aggressive role against the Libyan people thus effectively proving that he is nothing but an American employee in the presidential palace at Al-Qub'bah.

'Large-Scale' U.S., Egyptian Move Into Sudan Seen
LD202026 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli Jumada Thani 16, March 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The grounds are being prepared in Sudan for a large scale American Egyptian military intervention following the revolutionary attempt led by the Sudanese Airforce by destroying the building of the radio and television stations in Omdurman last Friday.

The preparations started with the American Administration declaring that it was sending two AWACS aircraft to Egypt as

a first step towards further plots. The American Defence Ministry spokesman declared in Washington that President Reagan took the decision to send the two AWACS aircraft allegedly in response to a demand by the Government of Egypt and Sudan. The spokesman declared that the two AWACS aircraft landed, yesterday, in an Egyptian base within the framework of these preparations. Fabricated and false allegations were launched against Libya, aiming to cover up the American Egyptian move. Despite of the utter denial issued by the General People's Committee of the Foreign Liaison Bureau against these allegations and that Libya had no connection whatsoever with the operation an ugly persistence has began to promote these groundless and fabricated allegations in such obvious manner and bad faith which make it unnecessary to prove their falsehood. The doubtful move took a new form, since the declaration of the destruction of the radio and television stations in addition to its outstanding nature in understanding intentions which the concerned parties are trying to achieve. [sentence as received]

The move was based on various [word indistinct] starting from the contact between the two artificial entities which were the creation of Al-Shu'ubiyah mentality in Egypt and Sudan. The Egyptian regime working towards a pre-designed plan, began to implement the preliminary steps. Minister of defence of the Egyptian regime, Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah arrived in Khartoum to hold talks with hireling Numayri conveying to him a verbal message from the president of the Egyptian regime. Following the return of Abu Ghazalah to Egypt, another Egyptian delegate, 'Usamah al-Baz, was sent early on Saturday to Khartoum to meet the foreign minister of the hireling regime of Numayri and consider the developments of the situation in Sudan. Al-Baz held talks also with the deputy of hireling Numayri, Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, he declared that he was in Khartoum on the instructions of the Egyptian president within the framework of consultation between the two countries.

As soon as Marshal Abu Ghazalah returned from Khartoum he met with the president of the Egyptian regime. [words indistinct] General Siwar al-Hahab, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the hireling regime of Numayri, made a further move, he headed a military delegation for a visit to the Egyptian capital to hold urgent military talks with Armed Forces officials. At the day of the revolutionary attempt the president of the Egyptian regime had a telephone conversation with hireling Numayri, then later declared that the so-called Sudanese-Egyptian Council of Defence was going to hold a meeting to discuss the operation leading to the destruction of the building of the radio and television station in Omdurman, by the Sudanese Airforce. Furthermore hireling Numayri declared that Egypt had sent some military units to Sudan at the same day the Egyptian regime declared on its part that huge military groupings were sent to Sudan. Also, the treacherous Numayri confessed with the ambassador of America and Britain to Khartoum. The following day, Yasir 'Arafat went to Sudan to confer with hireling Numayri. 'Arafat availed himself with this opportunity to express his hatred and air his poison against Jamahiriya when he made statements implicating the name of Jamahiriya in the destructions of the building of the radio and television station in Omdurman reaffirming his stand with a regime subjected to

America which is in itself a stand with the latter. [sentence as received]

Within this framework the military committee of coordination between the regimes of Egypt and Sudan began its meetings to implement the so called the mutual defence pact. Furthermore within the framework of imperialist and reactionary alliance, the president of the Egyptian regime met with the American ambassador in Cairo in the presence of the American charge d'affaires in Cairo. Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali held a similar meeting with the American ambassador it is noteworthy that following the destruction of Omdurman radio station, the same station confirmed broadcasting its programmes for an armed vehicle acknowledged the destruction of the radio station building as a result of the air raid. [sentence as received]

Front Leader: Sudanese Plane Responsible

LD202117 Tripoli JANA in English 1842 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] London, Jumada Thani 16, March 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of Southern Sudan Liberation Front Joseph Oduho denied the Sudanese and American and some Egyptian circles' provocations that a Libyan Air Force plane had bombed on the 16th March the city of Omdurman. The Sudanese opposition representative accused in a conference in London yesterday the Sudanese authorities of bombing the civilian Sudanese residential areas. He announced that the unidentified plane which carried out the raid on Omdurman, on 16th March was not Libyan but was a Sudanese Air Force plane aiming at fabricating external threat on Khartoum to allow Egyptian troops to move into Sudan under the two countries 1976 defence agreement. According to information received from the Sudan, Joseph Oduho confirmed that the plane was a Sudanese Air Force MIG which took off from Al-Ubayyid military base in the west of the country. The aircraft bombed the radio station and the houses of two opposition leaders. It is worth noting that the U.S. sent two AWACS surveillance aircraft to Egypt as an excuse and to fuel crazy attacks against Libya.

The London newspaper *THE TIMES* admitted in a leading article that invention of external threat suits perfectly well the Sudanese President Numayri at the present time. It said that the situation in the Sudan has deteriorated drastically in the last years and Numayri invented these allegations of external threats to receive American military aid.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Educational Conference

LD161622 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The brother commander of the revolution attended a meeting yesterday morning held by the masses of the educational conferences at Al-Fatih University. In his role of instigating the masses to consolidate and assert the people's authority, the brother commander spoke of the role of student masses in exercising democracy. He said:

Students used to be barred from learning how to exercise political responsibility. But now, educational institutions and universities

have become schools for the teaching of popular democracy, and for the advocacy of and instigation in thinking out ways for solving its problems. In this way, he said, the people's authority becomes established. He pointed out that this means educational institutions have shouldered their responsibilities and carried out their duties and are now in a position to determine their fate, take decisions, and organize their own affairs within their walls like other independent institutions.

Squandering students' energies and their failure to participate in production should be made the subject of review because we are facing many problems and challenges on all levels. We have to face these battles and determine to achieve historic victories in these military and political battles, which are the essence of all battles.

When we succeed in acquiring knowledge and economic and technological expertise, he said, the results of this success will be reflected in our military and political confrontations. He affirmed that such successes cannot be achieved except through material action which will enhance our ability to face problems.

Imposition of the Jamahiri system on society is yet another stage on the road to the revolutionary historical strategic stage which leads to the building of a Jamahiri society founded on popular revolution and the thinking of the popular masses, on the principle of equality and the breaking of all fetters, and on the lifting of all pressures from individuals and groups.

The brother commander added that the Jamahiri system of society means maximum realization of society's forces, which, in turn, will achieve the necessary level and the desired level of return from life. He added that if we succeed in mobilizing the masses in accordance with a Jamahiri revolutionary program, then we will be able to reap the following benefits:

The armed people will come into being in a short time. This is because the creation of an armed people means that we have amassed an extremely high defensive capability, which would probably comprise all the defense capabilities we have and which so far have been kept out of the battle — but which will now become part of the battle — such as the capabilities of men and women and training in the understanding and use of arms, of military confrontations and of the nature of the battle.

When we utilize all the capabilities we have and when we place all capabilities on the right course, it will be impossible to defeat us, unless atomic bombs are dropped on us, as was the case with Japan when an entire people were annihilated. This might actually happen, but it will not be as happened in Egypt and in some of the other Arab countries which fought a number of wars with Israel with only a small part of their capabilities and thus suffered historical defeat. This brought disgrace to our Arab nation in the historical conflict with the enemy.

The brother commander affirmed that the reason for all this is the failure to reach the stage about which we are now talking. He said: Thus, the armed people will come into being in a short while and will completely replace the army. If we continue on this course, we will before long succeed in replacing traditional soldiers, and all differences between the various sectors will be

dissolved. Then there will be no difference between those studying at college and those working at a factory or at an agricultural project, or those in army barracks.

Today, there are regular soldiers in the barracks. But tomorrow, your stadium will be transformed into a barracks close to us. Suppose the number of students present in the stadium is 1,000, and there is a regiment of 1,000 soldiers in this same area, then this combat regiment of professional soldiers will move to the factories while the 1,000 students will move from this stadium to the barracks. Thus, the students will become a regiment staying in the barracks and performing the same tasks the members of the regular military regiment performed.

In the past, soldiers carried out these tasks. Today also there are soldiers carrying out these tasks. But it does not worry us whether these soldiers in the camp are students or come from somewhere else. What is important is that the task is being carried out today as it was carried out exactly before.

The commander said battles do not differentiate between a student or a soldier. He pointed out that the task of production is shouldered by all — students and producers — and all of us will become producers. Students, producers and soldiers will alternate work in the factories, so that the factories will continue to function continuously according to shifts alternated by these groups, with each shift covering perhaps 24 hours, if demanded by the capacity of the factories.

The commander then spoke of marginal work in society. He said there are trifling and unimportant jobs in society now. Those occupying these jobs share the consumption of produce with us, but they do not share in our production work. These jobs must be attacked. These jobs are such as those of broadcasting announcers. These announcers must do other jobs as well, for their jobs do not keep them busy for 24 hours. That kind of work only takes 5 minutes. This work, these marginal jobs provide no service to society. So, these jobs must be attacked and society must replace those performing them, so that all the people will address themselves to production.

The commander added that there are other trifling and unimportant jobs. There are some people who work in consumer jobs which earn them money. These people share with us in earning and in consumption but they do not share with us in production. In this case, all these consumer activities must be attacked and dispensed with. This would leave everyone to produce for himself. This is a point worthy of attention. Those who do not work on a public project must work productively to ensure his own subsistence. There is no room for consumer work in a socialist society.

The commander pointed out that the peasants' sector works for itself. The majority of sectors which work for themselves are peasant sectors. These must participate in public projects. At this stage, they cannot be allowed to work for themselves. They must help in building public projects such as hospitals and roads and other public utilities which benefit all members of society. Thus, those who work for themselves should be brought into the Jamahiri process and they should perform tasks in addition to their own private jobs in the service of society. Basic work should

be society projects such as factories and public agricultural projects and militarization.

The commander said the first stage of the Jamahiri process is training the masses on productive work. At the start, the masses move to the factories to be trained in their work by the crews of the factories, who should remain on hand with the masses who come to the factories to train them. The same applies to the camps and other centers of production.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Nicaragua's Ramirez Mercado
LD182120 Tripoli JANA in English 1812 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 14, March JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution Colonel al-Qadhdhafi met here today with Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Government of National Reconstruction in the Republic of Nicaragua.

Major Jallud Receives Palestinian Figures 20 Mar
LD210936 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli: A meeting was held last night between Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, brothers Ahmad Jibril, general secretary of the PFLP-GC, Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] Abu 'Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Abu Khalid al-Amlah, members of the Revolutionary Command of Fatah movement, Umar ash-Shihabi and Fadhl Shrur, members of the Political Bureau of the PFLP-GC.

It is worth mentioning that a meeting was held yesterday between Staff Major 'Abd as-salam Jallud and brothers Ahmad Jibril, Abu Musa, Abu Khalid al-Umlah, Umar ash-Shihabi and Fadhl Shrur.

Libyan Students in London Hold Protest Rally
LD181515 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] London, Jumada Thani 14, March 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Arab revolutionary student force organised here yesterday a massive angry demonstration which toured the streets of the British capital in protest over linking Jamahiriyyah's name with the series of explosions and acts of violence that swept some British towns last week and in confirmation of the solidarity of the Arab revolutionary student force in Ireland and Britain with the Great Al Fatih Revolution and its leader.

The demonstrators chanted slogans condemning the British Government's biased stand towards the "stray dogs" who have committed crimes against the Libyan Arab people and looted their wealth without being handed in to Libyan justice according to Interpol orders. The demonstrators also denounced the campaign of distortions and allegations launched by British media against Jamahiriyyah's firm stand opposed to imperialism, reaction and colonialism and called on the British authorities to release all Libyans who have been detained and put an end to its continued provocative terrorist actions.

The demonstration gathered outside the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London. Then the student revolutionary force released the statement in which it announced that student masses in Britain who support today and forever the popularity of the revolution and its growing tide, who confirm the falseness of the claims by the cowards and the envious, in cooperation with colonialism and [word indistinct] and who emphasise the lies of the misleading hired media which supports the forces of colonialism, fascism and bourgeoisie in the world, today announce that the objective behind this hysterical campaign against the Jamahiriyyah and its people is to defame the brave historical stands of the Great Al Fatih Revolution and its role hostile to hegemony and submission and allied with the masses and their noble forces against their enemies everywhere.

The statement also said that the racist campaign against Libyan Arab students and citizens in Britain who are here for medical treatment or for studies, together with arrests, and interrogation without any reason are cheap, provocative and opportunist actions through which the events of the past [words indistinct] have been exploded in a desperate attempt to involve the revolutionary force away from the basic causes, those of heralding the revolution and disseminating its vanguard dicta as well as leading the masses march to destroy their enemies everywhere. The student masses in Britain together with their revolutionary forces are fully aware that this will only increase their confidence in their capability to act and carry on with determination towards realising their historical objectives for the sake of liberation, unity and progress. The statement further said that Libyan Arab people have rid themselves from all forms of oppression and dictatorships and strongly oppose any terroristic acts anywhere and at any time they may be, that they have been brought up in dignity, honour and pride and refuse to kneel except before God. They also pledge that they will continue to pursue the traitors and dishonourable who lick the shoes of their masters because they are used to it. History and the forthcoming generations will always curse them.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Al-Murabitun's Qulaylat
NC171355 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi met with brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, chairman of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun — in Tripoli at noon yesterday. Qulaylat is currently visiting the Jamahiriyyah at the official invitation of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. It is recalled that Qulaylat and accompanying his delegation arrived in Tripoli on Thursday.

MOROCCO

Guinea's Sekou Toure Meets With King Hassan, Departs
LD202001 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, held talks at noon today at the Royal Palace in Fes with Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who has arrived in Morocco from Algeria. The meeting was attended by the ministerial delegation

accompanying the president and some members of the government. After this, President Sekou Toure left Morocco for home and he was seen off at Fes airport by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory. A number of government members and senior military and civilian officials also took part in the send-off ceremony.

Sudan's Transport Minister Departs Rabat 20 March
LD201302 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Rabat, Mar 20 (MAP) — Sudanese Minister of Transport and Communications Khalid Hassan 'Abbas left Morocco Monday at the end of a two day visit at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart Mansouri Benali.

This visit was marked by a working session during which the two sides explained the broad lines of their respective countries' development projects and discussed means of bolstering bilateral cooperation. The two sides equally decided to form a joint committee in charge of working out a draft cooperation agreement in the area of posts and telecommunications. Exchange of expertise as well as staff and vocational trainings were also at the center of the talks.

Industry Minister Returns From West African Tour
LD172347 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Minister of Traditional Industry and Social Affairs Mr Abbas El Fassi returned to Morocco this evening following a tour of several African countries, during which he handed messages from HM King Hassan II to the heads of these states. At Sale Airport, Mr Abbas El Fassi made a statement to the radio correspondent, in which he said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. HM King Hassan II honored me when he commissioned me to convey handwritten messages from his majesty to the presidents of Ivory Coast, Gabon, Zaire, and Nigeria. I was received by President Houphouet-Boigny, President El-Hadj Omar Bongo, President Muhammadu Buhari and the Zairian prime minister, because President Mobutu was away from the capital in mourning.

The presidents and officials of these countries were touched by his majesty's gesture of sending an envoy, and they fully appreciated the clear and continued royal desire for consultation with African leaders for the benefit of Africa and in order to save African unity and the OAU from the dangers of disintegration.

Through these contacts, these presidents and officials support the Moroccan stance on the issue of the conflict in northwest Africa. They record that since Morocco announced in Nairobi through his majesty the acceptance of the African desire to conduct a referendum, it has maintained this stance. The essence of all the summit resolutions was always the cease-fire and the referendum. This is an established stance for Morocco. It is the resolution which binds the sides [words indistinct], while the other side tries to delay and creates obstructions in order to stop the

referendum and essentially tries to insist on side issues and irrelevant points.

Finally, I have seen again the special appreciation and special respect which is felt by the presidents and peoples of these countries for King Hassan II and the Moroccan people. [end recording]

SUDAN

Numayri Views Omdurman Bombing at Islamic Meeting
JN171818 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — In his speech opening an Islamic cultural course here today, President Numayri referred to the abortive criminal air raid on civilian targets in the city of Omdurman yesterday, saying that it is a new link in a chain of Libyan plotting. President Numayri described the treacherous aggression as a repetition of previous aggression, although in a different form. He said it is the fate of the Sudanese people to confront every cowardly and treacherous plan with the steadfastness of an invincible people and the willpower of an impregnable homeland.

President Numayri added: The attempt is the same one. It is planned and implemented by stupidity which, as the whole world testifies, has become characteristic of the plans of the Libyan colonel, the enemy of man, peace, and unity everywhere.

President Numayri affirmed that the Libyan air raid on Omdurman yesterday took place within the framework of Al-Qadhdhafi's attempts to undermine Sudan. The president said: The attempt is the same one and the failure will also be the same as in the case of all Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi's previous rancorous plans against Sudan. The president enumerated Al-Qadhdhafi's previous abortive attempts, such as the plot against national unity, the attempt to infiltrate across our western border, the attempt to pounce across our eastern air space, and the attempt of Al-Qadhdhafi's lackeys, agents, and mercenaries who took up arms against Sudan in his name and tried to torpedo Sudan's national unity under his banners and with his own admission.

President Numayri explained that it has now been confirmed without any doubt that the bomber which carried out the abortive air raid on the radio station in Omdurman took off from the air base in Al-Kafrah, in Libya, and that it returned to the same base. It was a Soviet-made Tupolev TU-22.

The president said that by this abortive and stupid adventure, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi wanted to silence the Voice of Sudan represented by its radio; little did he know that the voice of Sudan can only be silenced by liquidating all the Sudanese people. The president affirmed that the Voice of Sudan is not a transmitter that can be destroyed, but it is the voice of every Sudanese citizen.

President Numayri said that the Voice of Sudan is the voice of its sons, whose masses and leaders defied danger and came out to inspect the areas which were hit by the bombs, those which exploded immediately and those which did not, during the stupid

Libyan air raid.

He added: All the masses came out in a tumultuous demonstration headed by the leaders of the political organization and the leaders of national action from the different fields. They affirmed their determination to confront and to sacrifice their lives side by side with the People's Armed Forces in defense of Sudan's dignity, leadership, and honor.

The president said that Sudan's steadfastness is the voice of its people and the honor of its sons. The Voice of Sudan is the dignity of Sudan which will not be intimidated by invasion or plotting. The stupid Libyan air raid will only be faced with ridicule.

President Numayri continued: The Sudan knows just as the whole world knows that Al-Qadhdhafi is implementing a Soviet strategy, not only aimed at Sudan, but at the whole of the African Continent. The president affirmed that Sudan is aware of the strength and dimensions of the tripartite alliance, which Al-Qadhdhafi claims to be leading. Sudan also knows that it is not the final target of this alliance, but one of several others. Sudan, which remains steadfast against this alliance, is the defense line for security, peace, and stability for those around it. President Numayri affirmed that Sudan is always for peace and against aggression. But the peace which Sudan seeks does not mean surrender, but brave and powerful confrontation of every aggression regardless of its source and strength.

President Numayri explained that the joint defense agreement with fraternal Egypt has been in actual implementation since yesterday and that the joint defense forces have in fact moved to protect strategic objectives in Sudan. He added that Sudan is not alone and will not be alone in confronting the Libyan aggression and those who are behind it and supporting it. He added that Sudan has friends and brothers who understand that Sudan is steadfast and is protecting and defending security and stability in this part of the world.

Numayri Addresses Kassala Masses 20 Mar

JN201606 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Al-Qadarif, 20 Mar (SUNA) — President Numayri addressed the mass rally here today which was held on the occasion of opening the governorate offices in Kassala Province. In his speech, Numayri saluted the masses of the province who were gathered to meet him and his escorts. He said that the May revolution has achieved continuing victories through the masses in light of the Koran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad. He added that the revolution's victories over its enemies took place with the will of the masses against those who defiled human dignity by treacherous and cowardly attempts. The president saluted the masses in the name of brave Omdurman, steadfast Khartoum, and the national capital.

Numayri said that the masses are challenging the bombs and are declaring openly that the Voice of Sudan will not be silenced by bombing the radio station. The masses are facing the aggression with courage and are challenging the treacherous and cowardly acts, planning, and infiltration. The president saluted the masses in the name of the radio station and its staff, who continued to

perform their duties during the bombing and kept the voice of the radio higher than the roar of the bombing. [sentence indistinct]. He said that Sudan is engaged in the battles of honor, emphasizing that the Sudanese people's honor is the strongest and Sudan's honor is the highest. He saluted the masses in the name of the people's armed forces who are defending Sudan's honor and dignity.

Numayri noted that Al-Qadhdhafi's treacherous acts against Sudan have spilled the blood of a number of Sudanese, but the acts could not achieve their objectives. Sudan's flag remained high, and the Sudanese masses voiced their adherence to the land and honor. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi's bombs fell in a place in Omdurman where [sentence incomplete]. The President said that Al-Qadhdhafi, who sent a Tupolev TU-22 plane to strike at Sudan and Sudan's radio station is the same Al-Qadhdhafi who rejected a request by the Palestinian resistance to send a similar suicidal plane in order to strike at Tel Aviv. He sent this plane to strike at Sudan not Israel, and at the Sudanese not the Israelis. He added that Al-Qadhdhafi chooses enemies who are living safely in their homelands. He emphasized that through his suspect role, Al-Qadhdhafi proves his plotting and that he stands on the side of the enemies of Islam and Arabism. Furthermore, he is against the Palestinian resistance and seeks to split its ranks.

President Numayri said that Al-Qadhdhafi is trying to besiege the legitimate Palestinian leadership and destroy its positions. He also supports Iranian terrorism in the Arab Gulf and plotting in the region. Furthermore, he is behind the acts of sabotage in Britain and supports all crazy adventures everywhere. He is the source of hatred in the Arab and Islamic nations. He calls for unity with Egypt and Sudan at a time when he bombs Sudan's capital with his planes. He also calls for subjugating southern Sudan by force and for Sudan's unity with Libya at the expense of Sudan's nationalism.

He said that it is Al-Qadhdhafi who stands against Sudan's development, noting Al-Qadhdhafi's attempts to paralyze the process of development and construction in Sudan. He added that Al-Qadhdhafi is the author of the Green Book and the one who cooperates with the communists against Sudan. He is the enemy of integration between Egypt and Sudan and the one who is trying in vain to polarize Sudan against Egypt and vice versa. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi asks for reconciliation with Cairo at a time when he is planning to strike at Khartoum. The president disclosed that 'Abd as-Salam Jallud had telephoned, offering financial aid to Sudan and striking at the rebels on one condition; namely, that Sudan should not raise its voice in the Islamic conference demanding the return of Egypt to the it. He cited 'Abd as-Salam Jallud as saying that his gift to Sudan for this stand will be the people who oppose Sudan.

President Numayri said that Al-Qadhdhafi should know that the Sudanese-Egyptian relationship rises above deals and bargains and that it is a relationship of blood, kinship, joint history, and common past and present. He added that Sudan's reply to what Al-Qadhdhafi calls opposition outside Sudan is that this is not an opposition but agents who have no place in Sudan except when they have a sincere intention and desire for work. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi should know that the Sudanese people could not be terrified by aggression or a criminal air raid.

President Numayri indicated that the Sudanese people embarked on building what was destroyed by the Libyan aggression. He appealed to all the Sudanese who infiltrated into the city of Al-Qadarif to report about all their weapons and the information they possess and to keep Al-Qadhdhafi's money. The president greeted the valiant Eastern Region, which is the gate of Sudan where people stand against infiltration and plotting. The president said that what links Sudan with Ethiopia and Ethiopia with Sudan is not neighborliness, but the ties of history. He called on them [the Ethiopians] to expel all the Libyans and to extend their hands to Sudan. He announced that Sudan, the advocate of peace in the continent, had better advocate peace with its neighbors, including Ethiopia.

He said that Sudan does not accept sabotage and plotting from any place and that it is capable of reply and defense. Sudan is for peace and not surrender. He added that the national unity achieved in Sudan was an example not for Sudan but for all Africa. He announced that any attempt will be met with a decisive reply and more than that. He added that Sudan exerts efforts for attaining unity and not fragmentation. He said that the eastern region is the source of food for the Ethiopians and this food cannot be produced if the Ethiopians are plotting with Libya. He said that all the Sudanese people call for peace, but in case of an aggression they will deter the aggressors regardless of the price and results.

President Numayri pointed out that celebrating the inauguration of the governorate offices in the Kassala Province is an entrenchment of the concept of decentralization and regional rule. He said that the city of Al-Qadarif was chosen as capital of the province due to its location. He called for turning Kassala Province into an arena for agricultural training and production and into Sudan's greatest silo. He stressed that the central support will continue to solve the problem of electricity and water.

President Numayri concluded his speech by congratulating the masses of Al-Qadarif on the inauguration of the governorate offices of Kassala Province in their city. The president arrived in the city of Al-Qadarif in the Eastern Region at about 0900 today.

Returns to Khartoum

JN201946 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Mar (SUNA) — President leader Ja'far Muhammad Numayri returned to Khartoum from the city of Al-Qadarif in the Eastern Region this afternoon after inaugurating the installations of the new governorate offices of Kassala Province.

Numayri and the governor of the Eastern Region visited the command of IV Infantry Brigade this morning. He was received by the commander of the brigade and the senior officers.

Numayri Meets With 'Arafat in Khartoum

JN181044 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1013 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Mar (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri met here yesterday evening with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president. The meeting lasted about 2 hours.

In press statements following the meeting, 'Arafat said that the talks dealt with the situation in the Arab region, the current developments in the Palestinian arena, and the recent events in Sudan.

He added: We discussed the positive results to which we had together contributed in the Islamic summit conference in Casa blanca and the follow-up of these topics on all Arab, international, and local levels.

In reply to a SUNA question, 'Arafat indicated that the Palestinian Military Council, which concluded its meetings in San'a' yesterday, concentrated on assessing the past stage and the battles fought by the Palestinian revolution, headed by the military strategy of the coming stage, including the Palestinian revolution's decision to escalate the resistance operations behind the enemy lines and in occupied territory. It also discussed the organization of the Palestinian forces in their new locations, including the training program and the formation of committees to follow up the implementation of these topics and the resolutions adopted.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that the Palestinian revolution has right from the beginning rejected the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. He added: We fought against the Israeli invasion against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. We waged the longest Arab-Israeli war whether during the battles of Lebanon or the battle of Beirut.

He went on: We used to say that this Israeli-U.S. plot is rejected. We also reject any consequences like those of the 17 May agreement. We believe that the abrogation of this agreement is a gain first for the Lebanese people and second for the Arab nation.

At-Tayyib Receives U.S. Ambassador in Khartoum

JN201927 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1803 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Mar (SUNA) — First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib today received U.S. ambassador in Khartoum Hume Alexander Horan.

Horan said that he reviewed with the first vice president bilateral relations in light of the current developments in Sudan. He also said that he reiterated to the first vice president U.S. support for Sudan within the framework of the developed relations between the two countries.

Chadian Minister Affirms Country's Support for Sudan
JN201852 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 Mar (SUNA) — Korom Hamet, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed the support of Chad's Government and people for Sudan, and denounced the childish actions that Libya's colonel used to shake the situation in the region. He also said that the Chadian Government has instructed its UN representative to support Sudan in its complaint against Libya which committed its sinful aggression on Omdurman.

This came during the Chadian minister's reception of Sudan's Ambassador to Chad At-Tayyib Ahmad Hamidah, who provided the minister with the information and memorandums that the Foreign Ministry had issued on the sinful Libyan aggression on Omdurman. The ambassador also explained to the minister the details of the treacherous aggression.

TUNISIA

Finnish Prime Minister Sorsa Meets With 'Arafat
PM161510 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 10 Mar 84 p 18

[FINSKA NOTISBYRAN dispatch: "Meeting With 'Arafat Consistent With Policy"]

[Text] Tunis — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat believes that a major political step forward will be taken in the Middle East in the next few weeks.

On Thursday [8 March] 'Arafat met Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa and outlined his view of the situation in the Middle East. 'Arafat came to Tunisia to meet Sorsa, who received his guest in the residence where he will be staying during the official part of his visit to the country.

On Friday Sorsa told Finnish journalists in Tunis that he had no right to give a more detailed account to the general public of 'Arafat's remarks. 'Arafat came from South [as published] Yemen's capital, San'a', where the PLO has its military headquarters. The PLO's political headquarters is in Tunis.

Sorsa said that his meeting with 'Arafat is a natural extension of the policy expressed when, for example, the Finnish Government gave the PLO permission to found an information bureau in Helsinki.

'Arafat told Sorsa that the bureau will soon have a new chief who is an important politician within the PLO and one of 'Arafat's closest men. The PLO leader expressed his satisfaction over the fact that the Palestinians had been allowed to open the information bureau.

Sorsa described the meeting with 'Arafat as very interesting and said that the PLO leader is today one of the most important foreground figures in world politics.

Sorsa described the rest of his visit to Tunisia as extremely successful so far. His Tunisian hosts were said to be very interested in developing contacts with Finland. Sorsa has noted that his visit has been given comprehensive and positive coverage in the Tunisian mass media.

The trip has also provided Sorsa with an opportunity to form an overall picture of the situation in the Middle East.

As well as 'Arafat, Sorsa has also met Tunisia's prime minister and the secretary general of the Arab League.

"It seems as if the Arab countries are now primarily directing their attention at the war between Iraq and Iran. The Palestinian question has at present become eclipsed a little perhaps, but it cannot be said that it has been put on a shelf and left to gather dust," Sorsa said.

According to Sorsa Finland is starting to form closer ties with the Arab League, which has its headquarters in Tunis. On Friday Sorsa made another change in his program of visits and paid a visit to the League's headquarters. He held talks with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and these lasted around 1 hour.

After his meeting with Klibi, Sorsa told the press that the Arab League is acquiring increasing political importance and that the League's views and discussions are becoming increasingly important for political decisionmaking in Finland.

Sorsa said that the Nordic Council is also strengthening its contacts with the Arab League. It has been agreed to hold several joint seminars involving the Nordic Council and the Arab League. The first of these seminars was held in Stockholm last year and the next seminar is to be arranged in one of the Arab countries.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has attached great importance to the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon. He has been particularly appreciative of the Finnish detachment and Finland's efforts for peace in the Middle East in general.

Sorsa considered his talks with Klibi to have been very interesting and productive in the form of new information. As well as speaking about Lebanon and the Palestinian question Klibi outlined the situation in West Sahara and the war between Iran and Iraq.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Sends Message to East Bloc Leaders

EA201212 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Summary] Fisseha Desta, PMAC assistant secretary general and COPWE Executive Committee member, returned to Addis Ababa today after delivering a special message from Mengistu Haile Mariam to the general secretaries of the political parties of Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Poland, Romania, and Czechoslovakia.

Joint Meeting Debates Draft 10-Year Plan

EA202127 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Summary] The Joint meeting of the Council of Ministers and the National Revolutionary Development Campaign Executive Committee ended this evening after a lengthy assessment of the draft 10-year development plan. The meeting, chaired by Mengistu, discussed draft proposals on various sectors of the economy, transportation and communications, building construction, urban development and housing, development of local governments, finance, development of insurance facilities, and manpower training.

KENYA

Moi Meets With Nujoma-Led SWAPO Delegation

EA201844 Nairobi KNA in English 1610 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Nairobi, 20 Mar [KNA] — President Daniel arap Moi today at State House, Nairobi, received and held talks with the president of South-West Africa People's Organisation — SWAPO — Mr Sam Nujoma.

The president assured the Namibian leader that the political climate in southern Africa was ripe and had paved the way for immediate independence of the territory.

President Moi said: You rest assured that the independence of your country is just around the corner...nothing will delay it anymore.

Recalling the successes of similar liberation struggle on the continent, President Moi said it would be futile for the South African regime to continue subjugating the majority races in the region. He said: Our stand is very clear on this inhuman approach. We do not hate the minority whites in South Africa, we hate the abhorrent apartheid system.

The president observed that if other peoples of the world believed in the free world slogan they should therefore cause South Africa to be fair and appreciate that all human beings are the same.

Noting that the South African troop withdrawal from Angola was becoming a burden for Namibia, President Moi said the South Africa regime should appreciate that the independence of Namibia would ease the tension in the region, hence create a better climate for regional development as well as strategic co-operation. Namibia is ready to initiate genuine democracy and development based on the same pattern as other free world nations and South Africa should not be afraid of that he said.

President Moi said the current non-aggression treaty by Mozambique is in the right direction if only South Africans themselves are genuine to enhance peace.

He called for a ceasefire between South African troops in Namibia and SWAPO so that leaders can discuss the independence procedures for the territory without bloodshed.

The talks were attended by the vice-president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwai Kibaki; the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale; and the Namibian side comprised a founder member of SWAPO, Herman Toivo ja Toivo who was recently released by the Pretoria regime from the Robben Island Jail after sixteen years. Mr Nujoma was also accompanied by Mr Aron Shihepo [spelling as received], a member of the Central Committee of SWAPO and the East Africa, representative of SWAPO, Mrs Netumbo Nandi Ndaiturah [spelling as received].

Alleged Leader of Coup Attempt Sentenced to Death

EA191552 Nairobi KNA in English 1505 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Nairobi March 19 — Ex-Senior Private Hezekiah Awuor Ochuka, the alleged leader of the 1982 August one [as received] attempted coup, was today sentenced to death by a court martial.

The court, sitting at Langata Barracks in Nairobi, heard the treason case against Ochuka for two weeks and handed down a death sentence today after finding Ochuka guilty of planning and executing the coup.

The court martial was comprised of five armed forces officers, assisted by a judge/advocate Mr P.S. Gray. The prosecution was led by Major T. Githiora of the Kenya Army, while Ochuka was represented by a Nairobi lawyer, Mr Moses Wetangula.

Ochuka had denied the treason charge when he first appeared before the court martial on February 29.

The prosecution called 33 witnesses. Of the 33, 3 were Ochuka's relatives, 5 came from the "Voice of Kenya", 10 were servicemen at the Eastleigh Air Base during the time of the attempted coup, while 8 witnesses were at the Eastleigh Air Force Base at that time.

SOMALIA

EPLF, ELF Rebel Groups Agree To Merge Forces

*EA191522 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1400 GMT 19 Mar 84*

[Text] A statement released today by the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front, EPLF, said that the Central Committees of the liberation movements of Eritrea, namely the EPLF and ELF [Eritrean Liberation Front], have reached an agreement on merging their military and political forces.

The statement released by the EPLF's office here in Mogadishu said that the joint agreement was reached by the leaders of the fronts in a meeting held 8 to 11 March 1984 in an area of Eritrea liberated from the Abyssinian colonizers.

The report adds that the meeting discussed matters related to the liberation of Eritrea and how to merge the military forces of the Eritrean liberation movements.

The fronts also agreed to form a joint committee which will monitor the overall liberation struggle in Eritrea.

Radio Halgan: Barre Regime Bombarding Villages

*EA202116 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia
1800 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Reports reaching us from the Colonel (Abdullahi Haji Said) base of the Somali National Movement [SNM] wing of the Somali opposition force say that the Siad Barre forces [words indistinct] using artillery bombardment on villages in Togdheer Region. Other reports from the (Abdullahi Haji Said) base confirm that the Siad Barre forces have embarked on massive killings in the villages and towns as well as herdsmen in Togdheer by using artillery weapons.

Among the places extensively damaged by the units forced to

fight by Siad Barre is Dagah Dere which was bombarded with [word indistinct] artillery resulting in the destruction of part of that town. They also destroyed many houses belonging to civilians residing in Jibalei.

Other reports from the (Khalid ibn Walid) base, southern sector, of the SNM opposition, say that SNM forces are locked in battle with the Siad terrorist forces at the village of [name indistinct]. In the fighting, two of Siad's loyalists were killed and many others were wounded.

Reports reaching the Radio Halgan studio say that the Barre regime is currently engaged in a campaign of indiscriminate massacre of civilians in the northwest and Togdheer Region.

TANZANIA

PRC Trade Union Delegation Arrives on Visit

*EA202143 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1600 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] A five-man Chinese trade union delegation is in Dar es Salaam for a 6-day visit to Tanzania. The delegation, which is led by the chairman of the all-China Trade Union Federation, Ndugu Ni Zhifu, was met at the Dar es Salaam airport by the secretary general of the Tanzania Workers Organization, Juwata, Ndugu Joseph Rwegasira, and other Juwata officials.

The Chinese Delegation is scheduled to hold talks with Juwata officials tomorrow and will visit the Urafiki textile mills and the Ubungo farm implements factory in Ubungo in the afternoon. On Thursday the Chinese trade union leaders will visit the Tanzania-Zambia railway, Tazara offices along Pugu Road and later lay a wreath at the Chinese cemetery at Ukonga before flying to Zanzibar in the evening.

The Chinese delegation leaves Dar es Salaam for home on Sunday.

BENIN

Communique Gives ANR Election Schedule

AB171345 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT
6 Mar 84

["Final" communique issued in Cotonou on 15 March 1984 at the end of extraordinary meeting of the Permanent Committee of the National Revolutionary Assembly [ANR] on the organization of legislative elections in Benin]

[Excerpt] The Permanent Committee of the ANR met in Cotonou today, Thursday, 15 March 1984, in an extraordinary session under the chairmanship of Comrade Romain Vilon Ghezo, chairman of the Permanent Committee of the ANR.

The session was devoted to the examination of documents relating to the renewal of the legislature of the ANR and to the establishment of the calendar for the operations that will lead to the election of the people's commissioners to the ANR for the second legislature. After appreciation of the outcome of the ANR's previous extraordinary session, which was held from 13 to 18 February 1984 and at the end of which the people's commissioners voted in favor of Constitutional Law No 84-003 on the amendment of the 16 August 1977 Constitution, and of Law No 84-004 fixing the method of election and the number of people's commissioners to be elected, the Permanent Committee carefully and extensively analyzed all the necessary political, administrative and material preparations for the effective establishment of the second legislature of the ANR before the 3 August 1984 deadline in accordance with Constitutional Law No 83-001 of 3 February 1983. In this context, and after seeking the advice of the Central Committee of the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party, the Permanent Committee of the ANR decided to fix the calendar of the electoral operations which are to take place soon in our country as follows:

First, the establishment of electoral lists and the issuance of electoral cards in all the villages and areas of towns will take place from Wednesday, 21 March, to Friday, 30 March 1984.

Second, the deposition of candidacy as a people's commissioner at the ANR will take place from Friday, 20 April, to Sunday, 29 April 1984.

Third, electoral campaigns will take place from Monday, 30 April, to Saturday, 9 June 1984.

Fourth, democratic consultations will take place from Wednesday, 2 May, to Sunday, 13 May 1984.

Fifth, general election of people's commissioners to the ANR will take place on Sunday, 10 June 1984.

GUINEA

Toure Returns From Visit to Algeria 20 Mar

AB210915 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] After a 3-day friendly working visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the supreme leader of the revolution, President Ahmed Sekou Toure returned to Conakry today at 1930.

Benin's Kerekou Sends Message; DPRK Official Visits

AB210940 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Dr Lansana Beavogui, member of the National Political Bureau and prime minister in charge of planning and statistics, this morning received in audience Tiamou Adjibade, Beninese minister of foreign affairs, in the presence of the Beninese ambassador to Conakry.

Tiamou Adjibade delivered to the prime minister a message from Beninese head of state Mathieu Kerekou to President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Dr Lansana Beavogui also received in audience the DPRK vice president for cooperation and friendship with Africa and Asia. The Korean vice president's visit falls within the framework of a tour of some African countries.

IVORY COAST

Technical Agreement on Air Link Signed With Brazil

AB202120 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
20 Mar 84 p 6

[Text] Travel agents in the Ivory Coast will soon be able to exploit another destination, that is, Rio and its carnival in Brazil. In fact the Ivorian and Brazilian civil aviation authorities have just signed a technical agreement on the opening of an air link between the two countries to open up the area and permit more direct contacts between the Ivory Coast and Latin America, and especially between our country and Brazil, which are both labeled beautifully as "great coffee producers."

This technical agreement, which has just been signed and which aviation technicians call an "operating license," is an instrument preceding an air agreement which will lead to the actual functioning of the link. Therefore, after this first consultation at state level, the Brazilian airline company, Varig, and our multinational Air Afrique will sign an agreement on the operating procedures in the forthcoming weeks, which for us is a reassertion of a desire to open up to the world. We are awaiting the inaugural Abidjan-Rio flight.

LIBERIA

Further Arguments in Treason Trial Postponed

AB171240 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT
17 Mar 84

[Text] Further arguments in the treason trial involving 19 persons, who are also charged with violating PRC [People's Redemption Council] decree No 2, were postponed yesterday by the special military tribunal in Monrovia. The chairman of the tribunal, Major General Gayflor, said it was necessary to give prosecution and defense lawyers ample time to argue the case. The last prosecution witness, armed forces commanding general Brigadier General Morris Zaza, told the tribunal yesterday that a secret meeting was held on November 14 last year at a house on Elwa Road, to which he was invited by former Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa. General Zaza said Quiwonkpa told him at the meeting that he needed some assistance to rebel against the PRC government.

MALI

Head of State Returns From Visit to Mali

AB202053 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Lieutenant Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, returned to Nouakchott late this morning from Bamako where he paid a friendly and working visit at the invitation of his brother and friend General Moussa Traore, the president of Mali.

Before leaving Bamako this morning, the head of state disclosed to Malian radio his impression about this visit to Mali.

[Begin recording] In the first place, I would like to seize this opportunity to address to my brother and friend President Moussa Traore and through him, the Malian people, their party and government, my sincere thanks for the fraternal and frank welcome and care accorded us during our stay in Bamako.

I would like to say that the private talks that I held with President Moussa Traore as well as those held by the delegations were very satisfactory, and I am sure that they will further contribute to the strengthening of the already existing excellent bonds of cooperation between our two countries — a cooperation based on mutual respect, confidence, and solidarity, [words indistinct]. On this topic, the final communique will soon be issued and will give more details.

[Question by an unidentified reporter] Mr President, Mauritania recently recognized the SDAR. Will you please tell us the reasons for this decision. Also, I have the feeling that this recognition can bring about an escalation in the region.

[Haydala] The recognition of the SDAR by Mauritania is an act of national sovereignty. This recognition came about only after all the ways and means of restoring peace had been explored. It will be recalled that the 19th [OAU] summit meeting held in

Addis Ababa in 1983 adopted a resolution that was to serve as a solid basis — and this is also our point of view — for the restoration of a just and lasting peace in the region. To us, Morocco, which refused to apply this resolution, has blocked this path that was to lead to a peaceful solution. This is the reason Mauritania made this decision.

Concerning the second part of your question, I would like to tell you that the recognition of the SDAR by Mauritania will rather contribute more positively to the search for peace in the region. This position, which is not directed against any state in the region, falls perfectly within the framework of the policy that we have always advocated, that is, the continued search for understanding and unity among all the states of the region. [end recording]

NIGER

Kountche Comments at 16 March Cadres Meeting

AB162220 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT
16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council [CMS] and head of state, this morning presided over a cadres meeting at the Congress Palace. Dan Mahamane, you were at this meeting. What are the key points developed by General Kountche?

[Mahamane] As usual, President Seyni Kountche spoke about the life of the nation with its ups and downs within the appropriate framework of information and dialogue provided by the cadres meeting. Several topics were discussed during this morning's meeting: First, the food situation which, as everyone knows, is our top priority. As of 1 March 1984, we have 182,000 tons of cereals of all kinds, of which 158,000 tons is millet and sorghum. Our reserve stock is 47,000 tons, and the remaining 110,000 tons is our stabilization stock bought by the Niger Food Production Corporation and meant to be supplied to the public.

As everyone knows, during the last agro-pastoral season, several regions of our country had deficits, and some areas were even classified as disaster areas. At present, moves to supply these areas with food are continuing under the supervision of zonal heads, group leaders, and the departmental prefects. Since the beginning of this operation, 9,000 tons of millet and sorghum and corn have been distributed free of charge to the public there. The 9,000 tons were provided thanks to the United States, Canada, the European Development Fund, and from the efforts of our country itself.

Concerning our livestock, it must be remembered that during the last evaluation period, a need for 12,000 tons of cotton seeds and flour was expressed. Our country, in association with the World Bank, the West African Economic Community, and the European Development Fund, placed an order for 11,000 tons of surplus food for the livestock. Up to now, about 5,700 tons has been delivered, and the remainder will soon follow. In regard to our livestock, the appeal made for the dispersal of livestock has been heard and is currently being pursued. Judging from all these conditions, we think that our livestock will get through the difficult period between April and May without much difficulty.

Another subject President Kountche commented on is the economic situation. As you know, this situation is persistent and it is still difficult to glean any ray of hope from it.

Concerning the 6 October events, which are currently causing a lot of stir, if you permit me to use the word, President Kountche said two kinds of inquiries have begun: First, the search for and knowledge of the full details of the coup plot, and second, the evaluation of the properties of those concerned. The first inquiry is over, and the entire country will be informed about the results at the right time. Concerning the evaluation of the assets of those concerned, a commission has evaluated these assets and taken the trouble not to include the properties of innocent citizens. This commission will moreover be transformed into an auction commission and will have the mission of selling off a portion of these assets in order to pay off the debts contracted here and there by those concerned. The remaining assets will be placed at the disposal of the state which will use them for accommodation or office purposes.

Concerning electricity and water supply to the city of Niamey, there have been alarming rumors to the effect that the capital will soon be faced with power and water shortages because of the low water level of the river. Some people are even planning to leave Niamey in order to escape any possible shortages. The Niger authorities have studied this point in order to better assess the situation, and all necessary steps have been taken to resolve the problem in case such a situation arises. In regard to the water problem, for instance, 50 boreholes could be sunk in the surrounding suburbs of the city of Niamey. Concerning power supply, if it should ever happen that Kainji dam cannot supply Niamey with electricity, we should not forget that the Niger Electricity Corporation still has generators and gas turbines. As you can see, all necessary measures have been taken, and there is no cause for alarm. But at this juncture, every Niger citizen should tell himself that whatever the case may be, we must constantly keep in mind that we must avoid all water and power wastage and maintain a spirit of conservation.

In conclusion, President Kountche did not fail to review the international situation, and among the subjects discussed were the recent religious riots in Yola, Nigeria. In order to better control the activities of our religious communities so as to avoid any religious fanaticism in our country, rigid instructions have been given by the head of state to security officials.

NIGERIA

International Affairs Institute Has Chad Seminar

Temporary Partitioning Advocated

AB201705 Lagos NAN in English 1621 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, Mar. 20 [NAN] — The way out of the Chadian crisis is to temporarily partition the country into two spheres of influence, Prof. Olajide Aluko of the University of Ife said yesterday in Lagos.

Contributing to a 1-day seminar on Chad, which was organised by the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs [NIIA], Prof.

Aluko said that Libya should exercise influence over one area while Nigeria did the same over the other. He said that the measure would get the support of the OAU, adding that the partition proposal was first mooted by Libya in a message sent to Nigeria in 1980 and repeated last year.

The realities of the Chadian situation show that it is only within the framework of the contemporary partition of Chad that national reconciliation talks can take place, the professor said.

Prof. Aluko said that the pacification of Chad would take a long time because, he argued, it would be impossible to force France to withdraw its troops or to get other countries like Egypt and Sudan to take their hands off Chad.

Gambari Sees Potential Problems

AB201714 Dakar PANA in English 1618 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, 20 March [NAN/PANA] — Nigeria will forgo about 80 million naira (about 107 million dollars) it spent to maintain its troops that served in the OAU peace-keeping force in Chad two years ago, the minister of external affairs, Dr. Ibrahim Gambari, said at a one day conference on Chad yesterday.

The minister said that Nigeria were to deduct the amount from its subscription to the OAU, it would not pay anything to the organisation for the next 40 years.

What we want is for the next OAU summit to be appreciative of Nigeria's contribution to peace in Chad, he added.

Dr. Gambari told participants in the conference that Nigeria would not look at the Chadian problem from a global view as the U.S. tended to do or as a former colonial territory like France would do. Rather, he said, the country looks at it as potentially Nigeria's problem.

The minister said that if the Chadian problem deteriorated refugees would flood the country and they would bring with them the attendant problems.

Egypt Favors Lagos Plan

AB201750 Lagos NAN in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 20 [NAN] — Egypt still sees the Lagos plan of action as a basis for promoting South-South cooperation, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr. Butrus Ghali, said today in Lagos.

Addressing research officers of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Dr. Ghali said that his country supported the plan as a framework for promoting intra-Africa and inter-regional economic cooperation.

The 1982 Lagos plan of action was drawn up during an OAU economic summit in Lagos in 1982 for the economic recovery of member-states of the organisation.

The minister of state said that the rationale for his country's stance was to show the world that African nations could help each other. Dr. Ghali said that Egypt's foreign policy position had always been directed toward the overall good of Africa. He said that there was no contradiction between "Africanism" and "Arabism", adding that more than 75 percent of Arab lands were in Africa and that the majority of Arabs lived on the continent. He said that his country was committed to finding a lasting solution to such international issues as Palestine, Western Sahara, Iraq and Iran war, Chad and Namibia.

Dr. Ghali said that Nigeria and other African countries should not reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel as Egypt did. "In our relation with Israel, Egypt is using the carrot, Nigeria can use the stick. The two methods are aimed at arriving at a lasting peace in the Middle East," the minister said.

Call for W. Sahara Implementation Committee Meeting
AB210815 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
 21 Mar 84

[Text] Nigeria is to request for the Organization of African Unity to convene a meeting of the Implementation Committee on Western Sahara before the next summit of the organization coming up in Conakry. Such a meeting shall work out a formula to save the summit of the OAU. This was stated by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, at Dodan Barracks yesterday while exchanging views with the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali. The head of state said that Nigeria, as a member of the committee, has appealed to Morocco and the SDAR not to allow any issue to mar the next OAU summit.

Commenting on the Chadian crisis, General Buhari said that Nigeria wanted peace which could be achieved through the withdrawal of foreign troops involved in the conflict, and on southern Africa, he said that Nigeria believed that the nationalist forces would triumph in whatever plan that was evolved for Namibia's independence. Gen Buhari assured the Egyptian minister of Nigeria's continued support for the Palestinian cause.

Dr Ghali had earlier presented a message from President Husni Mubarak of Egypt to Gen Buhari in which the Egyptian leader expressed the support and solidarity of his country to the Federal Military Government. President Mubarak also invited Gen Buhari to visit Egypt. The minister was accompanied by the Egyptian ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Salah ad-Din.

FMG Statement on Tactics of 'Fugitive Politicians'
AB200945 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT
 19 Mar 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government [FMG] has again reaffirmed its determination not to be diverted from its set objectives by various tactics currently being employed by runaway politicians. In a statement in Lagos today, the administration said it was aware of the various attempts by the fugitive politicians to

malign the present government by employing gross forgery as their weapon. As part of their grand design, the fugitives' plan to forge statements of accounts purporting that the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, and the chief of Army Staff, Major General Ibrahim Babangida, had millions of pounds in British banks.

In the case of the head of state, a mischievous plan was organized to show that he collected the purported amount when he was the federal commissioner for petroleum. The runaway politicians also plan to discredit Maj Gen Babangida with 65 million pounds supposedly representing kickbacks which he allegedly received in the purchase of armored vehicles.

The FMG, however, stressed that nothing would deter it from correcting and reforming the social and economic structures of the country.

Minister Denounces Corrupt Officials at Cameroon Border
AB190730 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
 19 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Brigadier Mohammed Magoro, has called on officials at the Nigeria-Cameroon border to be vigilant and honest. He also advised them to place the interest and security of the nation first in the discharge of their duty.

Brig Magoro gave the advice while briefing the officials of the border post at Ikpe, near Ikom, in the Cross River state. The minister condemned the attitude of some security officials at the border who collude with unpatriotic Nigerians to smuggle out essential commodities. He said the exercise of weeding out corrupt and undesirable elements from the public service was a continuing one and advised those who could not take a stand with the military government philosophy to resign. The senior immigration control officer, Mr Pius Ikilo, had told the minister while conducting him around that his men lacked modern facilities and good accommodation.

Minister Bali Explains Reason for Military Tribunals
AB171211 Lagos International Service in English
 0830 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of defense, Major General Domkat Bali, said on Wednesday that Nigeria's decision to set up a military tribunal to try public officials detained for alleged corrupt practices, was to avoid unnecessary delays which could arise in civil courts. Major General Bali, who was addressing a news conference in Washington, said that the detained persons will have a fair trial. He said that the Federal Military Government will request the extradition of wanted Nigerians now residing in the United States and Britain, after specific charges have been established against them. Nigeria has extradition agreements with the United States and Britain.

Petrochemical Plant Construction Begins in Kaduna
AB201744 Lagos NAN in English 1540 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 20, [NAN]— The foundation stone of the country's first petrochemical plant was laid in Kaduna today by the minister of petroleum and energy, Prof. Tam David-West.

The plant, which is located close to the Kaduna refinery, will produce 30,000 tonnes of linear alkyl benzene annually. Prof. David-West said during the ceremony that lack of funds and political will militated against faster progress on the project, adding that between 1970 and 1978, only 1,138,563 naira was spent on the project.

According to the minister, market surveys show that the country had a large domestic market for petrochemicals, adding that the federal government was committed to the completion of the project.

A second plant to produce 35,000 tonnes of polypropylene and 25,000 tonnes of carbon black annually will be located in Warri. Prof. David-West is expected to lay the foundation stone of the Warri plant on March 27.

The development of the petrochemical project was provided for in the Second National Development Plan, 1970-1974. Some OPEC countries like Algeria, United Arab Emirates, Libya, and Indonesia have petrochemical plants.

TOGO

Senegalese Minister Conveys Message From Diouf
AB210850 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpt] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding-chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and head of state, received early this morning in audience at the presidential palace Abdourahman Toure, Senegal's minister of trade. During the audience, the Senegalese minister delivered to President Gnassingbe Eyadema a message from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. After the audience, Mr Abdourahman Toure expressed to the press his satisfaction at having accomplished the mission assigned to him.

[Begin recording] I brought a message from President Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal to his friend and brother, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the president of the Republic of Togo. I have just accomplished my mission.

Concerning your question, in fact I think that the mission was accomplished under very good conditions.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, would you assess the commercial relations between Togo and Senegal?

[Toure] The commercial relations between Togo and Senegal are very good, and already there exists a legal instrument that governs these relations. The community discussions that can facilitate trade have already been established within the

ECOWAS. Therefore, commercial relations between Togo and Senegal are currently very good. It cannot be otherwise, because the main problems facing international trade are monetary, linguistic, and transportation-related, but Togo and Senegal do not have any of these problems. As you know, we have the same currency, and as far as language problems are concerned [words indistinct]. Concerning transportation, our two countries are maritime countries, and trade flows normally between them. [end recording]

Eyadema Receives Niger Head of State; Talks Begin
AB201905 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President Seyni Kountche, Niger head of state, arrived in Lome this morning for a friendly and working visit.

It was at 1035 GMT when the Boeing-737 bearing the colors of the Niger national flag landed at Lome Tokoin International Airport. President Seyni Kountche was welcomed by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, head of state, his brother and friend.

Now the two leaders are at the head of state's private residence at Lome II where they arrived at about 1145 GMT from the "2 Fevrier" Hotel and where they are currently holding private talks which will be followed by a luncheon, also at Lome II.

UPPER VOLTA

Niger's Kountche, Sankara Speak to Press
AB201854 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Following a 2-day working visit to our country, Niger President Seyni Kountche, the current chairman of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS], left Ouagadougou this morning for the Niger capital.

During his visit, he held talks with the staff of the ICDCS executive secretariat on means to give a new impetus to the organization. They notably examined the financial problem which has become a great obstacle to the smooth functioning of the executive secretariat. In this connection, it will be recalled that arrears in contribution total 240 million CFA francs, which does not augur well for the collection of the 1984 contribution toward the 1984 budget amounting to 350 million CFA. The various problems facing the ICDCS were mentioned by President Kountche this morning at the airport when the press asked him to take stock of his visit.

[Begin recording] The essential purpose of my visit was to get to know the men at the secretariat in order to give them new directives which will give a new impetus and some sort of vitality to our organization in order to be able to cope with the mission assigned to it. I simply want to recall that 10 years after the birth of the ICDCS, by sheer coincidence, there has been more degradation in our ecological system as compared with 1973.

I also took the opportunity to hold talks with President Sankara in other fields. Yesterday I recalled the ties which bind Niger and Upper Volta. Our talks were quite fruitful, cordial and sincere, and will open up the way for a more dynamic cooperation and thus strengthen the solidarity between our two countries. Here and there our countries are facing many difficulties; the essential thing now is to increase our desire to solidify and strengthen our solidarity. These are some of the areas of discussion we had together, and this is precisely what we have always been looking for, because regardless of the men and the regime governing a country, there is a constant need for interdependence and the need to improve the welfare of our peoples.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, here in Upper Volta, we have undertaken the construction of depots for stockpiling cereals as security stock to alleviate the effects of the drought. Will it not be necessary at the ICDCS level to do the same thing to help the people cope with the effects of the drought?

[Kountche] There is a similar policy within the organization to stockpile food, but I must tell you that this stock is quite insignificant as compared with the food needs. If you will remember, perhaps 1 or 2 years ago a meeting was held in Geneva with some international institutions and some states to find out the possibility of setting up a permanent security stock and reserve. Unfortunately, this request did not get the support and adherence of the international community, and I don't think such a conference can be held in the months to come. After much campaigning to call attention to the problem, we hope something will be done to avoid bulky transportation of food in the event of a food crisis, because if we have these food items already in our countries, we can easily place them at the disposal of the people at the right time.

[Unidentified reporter] The Niger head of state has just spoken about strengthening and making more dynamic the cooperation between Niger and Upper Volta. In what field do you think such cooperation can be made more dynamic?

[Sankara] The field of cooperation between Upper Volta and Niger is quite vast, and the space of a visit will not be sufficient to solve all the questions of cooperation between our two states and our two peoples. We therefore limited ourselves simply to some points and tried to do the maximum we can do in these fields. There is the desire between the peoples of Niger and Upper Volta for cooperation [words indistinct] President Seyni Kountche and I have cleared the bush and paved the way for important fields like the exchange of air transportation and other economic fields. We also envisaged finding solutions to border disputes between our two peoples which occur every day, in order to settle them amicably and in order not to allow them to get out of control. This is already a good approach that will be very beneficial to our peoples. We also reserve the right to come back to other important issues.

[Unidentified reporter] One last question, Mr President. *JENUE AFRIQUE* has reported that Libya has delivered arms worth 25 billion CFA francs. Is this true? It also reports that Libya is asking for repayment. What is the true nature of this report?

[Sankara] As you know *JEUNE AFRIQUE* is a private newspaper. We don't know where *JEUNE AFRIQUE* got this information. In any case, what we are sure of is that it did not get this information from Upper Volta. It remains to be seen whether it was Colonel Al-Qadhafi who gave this information to *JEUNE AFRIQUE* — which we do not believe — because there has never been a question of repaying this aid which Libya granted us at a time when we needed it. Our relations continue to be very harmonious. Incidentally, *JEUNE AFRIQUE* did not report this, but I am going to announce to you that Libya has granted us another loan of \$10 million which is not negligible in our present situation. Do you think Libya is giving us \$10 million to get back \$15 million? No. That has never been the case. But you must understand that the paper must find something to fill its Confidential Column in order to retain its readers. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Foreign Minister Returns From Meetings in Bucharest

*MB210850 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 21 Mar 84*

[Text] The joint Angolan-Romanian intergovernmental commission, which held working sessions in Bucharest from 15 to 18 March, has noted the continuous development of existing relations between the two countries, and established guidelines to strengthen and maintain the links between Angola and Romania. The commission also studied ways of strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the fields of industry, agriculture, mining exploration, transport, and other economic sectors.

Paulo Jorge, Angolan minister of foreign affairs, who led the Angolan delegation to the working sessions, has already returned to Luanda from the Socialist Republic of Romania. Besides attending the working sessions of the joint commission, the head of Angolan diplomacy was received by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, to whom he delivered a personal message from Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

BOTSWANA

Kwelagobe Urges Voters To Scrutinize Parties

*MB210924 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
21 Mar 84*

[Text] The minister of public service and information, who is also the secretary general of the Botswana Democratic Party [BDP], Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, has warned Batswana to fully scrutinize the policies of all the six political parties before going to the polls. He said this when addressing eight political rallies in Lobatse last weekend, which were also addressed by the assistant minister of agriculture, Mr Utlwang Matlhabaphiri, and six other BDP members of parliament.

Mr Kwelagobe said the opposition Botswana National Front [BNF] was misleading people in their pamphlet number one. He said the BNF in their 1965 edition of the pamphlet stated that when in power they would only allow (?freedom) for people to assemble to consult together in the interests of the National Democratic Front. He urged a boycott in the redistribution of the pamphlet in the interest of the nation. Mr Kwelagobe said this meant no gathering or assembly at which the government will be criticized will be allowed during BNF rule. He assured his audience that the BDP government, if reelected into power, would continue to allow freedom of speech and the existence of opposition parties.

Mr Kwelagobe promised Botswana will continue the protection of human rights by the BDP government and asked them to take advantage of the [words indistinct] and its friends and local policies. He warned them against misleading opposition leaders, which [words indistinct] government advantage to their own benefit.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, the opposition BNF held two political rallies at Woodhall and (Keinang) which were addressed by women. Speaking at the rally, (Princess Tshuping) accused the BDP government of denying Botswana proper education by introducing automatic promotions that she said left dropouts. The BNF president, Dr Kenneth Koma, also accused the BDP of not addressing people about their work, but instead discussing the BNF. He said he advised the BDP to tell the Botswana new methods of how to prevent further recurring drought.

LESOTHO

Jonathan Aware of Pik Botha Meeting With Dissidents

*MB192010 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT
19 Mar 84*

[Text] A spokesman for the prime minister's office said today that the prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, now has a full and detailed report of the meeting convened in Pretoria by the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, to give instructions to some political dissidents in Lesotho to form the so-called Democratic Alliance. The spokesman said that the meeting, which had [word indistinct] been called to brief the dissidents about the designs of the South African Government on the present Lesotho Government, again corroborated the charges which have consistently been made by the Government of Lesotho that South Africa was on a campaign of destabilisation and unbridled interference in the affairs of Lesotho.

The spokesman said that the latest details of the Pretoria meeting have made it clear that the South African Government's objective was to overthrow the existing government in Lesotho and to replace it with a feudalistic bantustan regime which would perpetually deprive the Basotho people of all democratic rights. The spokesman said that it was also clear that a military invasion such as that of 9 December 1982 was not necessarily going to be used, but it is only one of several options which the South African Government had in its means. The spokesman challenged the South African foreign minister to deny that his government had prepared a plan to overthrow the present government in Lesotho.

Prime Minister's Role in RSA Dialogue Hailed

*MB170942 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT
16 Mar 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] One of the early election campaign platforms of the prime minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, was the principle of peaceful coexistence among neighbors, irrespective of their internal ideological philosophies. Dr Jonathan went into the first general elections in 1965 with this platform constituting a major campaign topic. In addition to this, he propounded the concept of dialogue as a means of providing solutions to internal political friction. For this reason he rejected the use of violence as a means of solving internal and regional political problems. It is therefore widely believed that his victory at that election was an endorsement by Basotho of his policy.

As a result of this commitment to this policy and because of the mandate he received from the nation, he took the bold step at great political risk of pursuing the policy to its logical conclusion by becoming the first African head of government to convene a meeting with a South African prime minister — at the time the late Dr Hendrik Verwoed. When Dr Verwoed was assassinated in the South African Parliament he held in his hand the text of a joint statement on peaceful coexistence which was to be simultaneously made in the South African and Lesotho Parliaments by the two prime ministers. Dr Jonathan has also met the present South African premier, Mr P.W. Botha.

At the beginning of this diplomatic initiative, Dr Jonathan was ostracized by many of his African colleagues who saw dialogue as a sell-out policy. He was accused of taking orders from Pretoria. Events today only seem to prove that he was far ahead of time. He saw far into the future.

Independent Lesotho was for these reasons founded on these principles of regional peace and security and on internal dialogue. It is therefore inconceivable for this country and its leadership to turn its back to principles that are so fundamental to our national philosophy. As a result of this policy, Lesotho made an undertaking that she would never allow her soil to be used as a springboard for attacks against our neighbors. As Dr Jonathan recently reiterated, we have honored the letter and the spirit of this undertaking.

Two things, however, are a major handicap to the regional application of peaceful coexistence and internal dialogue. The first is that while the South African region itself, and indeed the entire international community, have come to regard the racial policies of South Africa as a potential threat to regional and international peace and security, South Africa continues to accept that apartheid is not negotiable. This means that all initiatives for peace and security and all efforts for good neighborliness must be built around the fragile scaffolding of racial domination within South Africa, and by extension, of domination of the region by a particular racial group simply because of its military and economic might.

The second factor is that while independent southern Africa states can be persuaded to enter into some dialogue with South Africa, the Pretoria government itself rejects dialogue with the representatives of more than 20 million black South Africans who are involuntarily denationalized by the apartheid political system. These two factors are cardinal to the success or failure of the present peace initiatives in southern Africa. In fact, if anything they are the only factors that render any agreement resulting from these initiatives precariously fragile.

It does not need a diplomatic genius to conclude that the removal of apartheid and the equitable sharing of political power in South Africa are factors that will continue to dominate the political agenda of southern Africa. When racial domination has been dismantled, and blacks and whites in South Africa share political power equitably, there will be no need for nonaggression pacts. The security of this region will be guaranteed.

Sixishe Urges BNP Vigilance During Campaign

MB171600 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of information and broadcasting, The Honorable D.T. Sixishe, has urged the Basotho National Party [BNP] members to stay more vigilant as enemies will employ tricks to divert them from their party policies during the campaign for elections. He said that demagogues that are using the BNP disguise who were rejected by the party due to their tendencies are doing [word indistinct] to trick BNP members to join the new political party founded in Pretoria and led by Mr Charles Dube Molapo and Mr (Pokatsolane). He said that it is known to all party members that the BNP has more representation in comparison to other political parties in Lesotho.

The honorable minister [words indistinct] the call for elections is due to Dr Jonathan's respect for law and the opinion of the internal community. Mr Sixishe also pointed out that although Dr Jonathan had wanted elections to be held some time ago, the BNP members do not accept the carrying out of such elections, as their lives were threatened.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Ties Diplomatic Ties With RSA to Apartheid

MB201558 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, has ruled out the possibility of formal diplomatic ties with South Africa so long as Pretoria pursues apartheid policies.

Mr Chissano, who is on a 1-week visit to Japan, told one of the country's leading daily newspapers that apartheid was the prime cause of tension in southern Africa. However, he added that it was quite natural for Mozambique and South Africa to deepen their relations in the economic field and that he expected South African investments to improve railways, roads, and harbors, all of which are important to South Africa's foreign trade.

Mr Chissano said that Mozambique would follow up the Nkomati accord by signing agreements with South Africa on trade, tourism, and economic cooperation.

During his visit, which is at the invitation of the Japanese foreign minister, Mr Chissano is holding talks with government officials and businessmen on the possibility for cooperation, particularly in industry, commerce, and agriculture.

Machel Hosts Reception for RSA Pact Participants

MB202030 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] A short while ago, President Samora Machel hosted a reception in Maputo for all those who had been involved in paving the way for the implementation of the Nkomati Accord signed on 16 March between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa. Present at the reception were

members of the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party, provincial military commanders, and journalists who covered the event.

Showing visible signs of emotion, President Samora Machel first proposed a toast for peace, tranquillity, and prosperity for all of the Mozambican people and all of the people of southern Africa. Marshal Samora Machel hailed the defense and security efforts made — in particular, the efforts of the Mozambique Armed Forces, FPLM — in the long process which culminated in the signing of the Nkomati pact on nonaggression and good neighborliness.

One does not choose one's neighbors, stressed President Samora Machel, who added that everything will be done to protect the tranquillity of the Mozambican people without having to consult anybody. President Samora Machel stressed the need, first and foremost, to safeguard our national interests, and stressed that the People's Republic of Mozambique has brought democracy and respect for mankind to this part of Africa.

Marshal Samora Machel hailed the provincial military commanders for demonstrating their clear understanding and their political, military, and diplomatic firmness during this process, and particularly during the signing of the Nkomati Accord.

Algerian Minister Arrives, Brings Bendjedid Message

*MB200915 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
080 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Nemiche Djelloul, the Algerian minister of veterans affairs, arrived in Maputo yesterday bringing a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to his Mozambique counterpart. Nemiche Djelloul was received at Maputo International Airport by Jacinto Veloso, the minister in the Presidency for economic affairs. The Algerian minister told reporters he hoped, during his stay in Maputo, to discuss issues related to bilateral relations and international problems concerning his country and Mozambique.

Malawi Minister Views Trade After Nkomati Accord

*MB201436 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1100 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] A Malawian minister has said his country will reap benefits from implementations of the Nkomati Accord. Mr E.C.I. Bwanali, who is Malawi's transport and communications minister, is in Mozambique to visit the country's ports and hold talks with Mozambique officials.

At the opening of the talks, Mr Bwanali said Malawi had a special interest in seeing the Nkomati accord succeed. This was because South African-backed armed bandits had disrupted landlocked Malawi's three foreign trade routes to the Mozambican port of Beira. Before this disruption, Beira was handling 70 percent of Malawi's exports. Under the Nkomati accord, South Africa has pledged to terminate its support for the armed bandits, and Mr Bwanali said he hopes to see results from the agreement soon.

Mr Bwanali arrived in Mozambique last Thursday and on Friday attended the signing of the Nkomati accord. He has since visited the ports of Maputo, Matola, and Nacala, and is due to tour Beira and Quelimane ports tomorrow.

Events Leading Up to Nkomati Accord Reviewed

ABI61120 Dakar PANA in English 1097 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] Maputo, 16 Mar (AIM/PANA) — The agreement on non-aggression and good neighbourliness to be signed by Mozambique and South Africa today on the banks of the River Nkomati on the common border is the result of three months of intensive diplomacy, which began with the ministerial meeting held in the Swazi capital of Mbabane on 20 December 1983.

But before this, there was a whole history of contacts between the two countries. Some were at relatively low-level, dealing with South Africa's use of Mozambican railways, and of the port of Maputo. Some dealt with police matters (such as smuggling and drug trafficking across the border) in which both countries, despite their opposed ideologies, had a common interest.

Others were at governmental level. These contacts began shortly after Mozambican independence on 25 June 1975.

On the Mozambican side they involved Sergio Vieira, now deputy minister of defence, but then director of the president's office. The South African official most deeply involved in these early talks was Brandt Fourie (then director-general of foreign affairs, now Pretoria's ambassador in Washington). Contact between the two men continued, even after Sergio Vieira had become governor of the Bank of Mozambique.

These contacts did not prevent South Africa from waging an undeclared war against Mozambique. The apartheid regime attacked Mozambique both with its regular forces, and through the bandits of the self-styled Mozambique National Resistance (MNR).

Despite the increase in South African aggression, ministerial meetings between the two countries were held at the South African border town of Komatipoort in December 1982, and in May 1983. At both meetings, Mozambique insisted that an agreement on security was a *sine qua non* for any serious relation in other fields. In particular, South Africa would have to drop its support for the MNR.

The South African delegation, however, insisted on the primacy of economic agreements, rejected proposals for a security accord, and demanded that Mozambique expel all members of the South African liberation movement, the African National Congress, from its territory.

Further attacks followed these meetings, notably the May 23 air raid against the Maputo suburb of Matola.

The apartheid regime believed it could carry out such raids with impunity, since it felt that it could safely rely on support from the West. For the Reagan administration in the United States, southern Africa was seen in cold war terms, as just another

theatre in the conflict with the Soviet Union — a conflict in which South Africa was aligned with the West. Many political circles in Western Europe, though they might condemn apartheid verbally, shared these feelings — for them, South Africa was the West's ally, while Mozambique was dismissed as a Soviet satellite.

As a result of this, one of the decisions taken by the Frelimo Central Committee in 1982 was to launch a diplomatic offensive in the West, to bring home to Western leaders the true nature of the conflict in southern Africa.

The high point of this offensive was President Samora Machel's visit to six European countries, five of them in Western Europe, in October 1983. Leaders in Portugal, France and Britain finally understood that Mozambique was not, and has no intention of becoming, a client of any foreign power, and that the centre of destabilisation in southern Africa was located in Pretoria.

Worried by Mozambique's diplomatic success, the South African regime sent Foreign Minister Roelof Botha in hot pursuit in late November-early December. But much to his chagrin, Botha found that many doors in Europe were closed to him. Evidently the message he received amounted to a warning that South Africa could no longer count on Western support unless it entered into serious negotiations with its neighbours.

A little later, President Samora received the first envoys on behalf of P.W. Botha. They announced that South Africa was ready to resume the negotiations that Mozambique had initiated. And so, the Mbabane meeting was held on 20 December.

At the time, President Samora was in the Guinean capital, Bissau. At a meeting with Portuguese journalists, he laid down the conditions that were not negotiable for Mozambique. "First, South Africa is not going to force us to recognize apartheid," he said. "Second, South Africa is not going to force us to recognise the Bantustans. We are interested in peoples, not ethnic groups. Third, South Africa is not going to force us to abandon the ANC."

The Mbabane negotiations were followed by simultaneous meetings in Maputo and Pretoria on 16 January 1984, and by a further meeting in Maputo on 20 February. On the latter occasion, President Samora received the three ministers in the South African delegation — Foreign Minister Roelof Botha, Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange and Defence Minister Magnus Malan.

The following week the Mozambican Council of Ministers approved the principles of a draft agreement on non-aggression and good neighbourliness. This was then presented at the final round of talks held in Cape Town on 2 March. Both the principles and the draft contained the fundamental points of view presented by the Mozambican delegation as far back as the Komatipoort meeting of December 1982.

In Cape Town the Mozambican delegation, headed by Major General Jacinto Veloso, minister in the Presidency for economic affairs, had a meeting with South African Premier P.W. Botha.

The final communique from the Cape Town talks said that the meetings with President Samora and with Prime Minister Botha had been vital to the positive steps taken.

Annihilation of 'Armed Bandits' Will Protect Pact

*MB191900 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0605 GMT 18 Mar 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The signing of the treaty of nonaggression and good neighborliness between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa constitutes a real victory for the peace policy that guides the Frelimo principles, as stated at its Fourth Congress. It also once again reveals the initiatives and efforts undertaken by our commander in chief, Comrade Marshal of the Republic Samora Machel, and is evidence that in turning the southern Africa region into a zone of peace, good neighborliness, peace, and happiness will reign among the people. In signing the treaty, a pledge of nonaggression was made between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa. But what now? Do we fold our arms? Obviously we do not. More than ever it is necessary to consolidate that victory by intensifying our efforts to annihilate the armed bandits, by stepping up vigilance at every observation post and barracks, and by isolating and neutralizing all the peoples' enemies with every step of our march.

Today with the signing of the accord, our optimism and our hopes are broadening. Today, recent events also prove that, after we won national independence in Mozambique, the murderers took shelter in the Smith's Rhodesia. After Zimbabwe's independence, they took shelter in South Africa. And now? Where are they going?

This happened in Vietnam with French and American lackeys. This happened in Cuba against the counterrevolutionaries. The same thing will happen in Mozambique with the armed bandits. It is about time that they surrendered to our Armed Forces. A bandit who surrenders is welcome, a bandit who resists and causes grief and mourning among our people is cannon fodder for our weapons, and time shows that is now futile for them to resist our firepower. Throughout this, it is the power of reason that always triumphs.

Nkomati Accord Seen Opening New Prospects for Peace

*MB161940 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 16 Mar 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Nkomati accord has opened new prospects of peace and security in our region, prospects that are new but for which our people have searched ardently and at length. We could sum up these prospects as follows: Those who used to attack us and organized aggression against us have formally agreed to stop doing so.

This type of hopeful opening constitutes an important victory for our people and a victory for the socialist policy of peace of our party and state. The Nkomati accord was signed in the year in which we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle of national liberation and the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Lusaka accords, which marked the victory of our people over colonialism. Separated by almost a decade each, these three events show the determination with which the Mozambique people have been and are struggling to achieve and defend independence and build peace. In this combination of efforts, designed to benefit freedom, peace, sovereignty, and the relations among nations as well as the fatherland and all of humanity, one finds the magnificence of our people's struggle and the importance of the victory enshrined in the Nkomati accord.

For us, men and women who are profoundly marked by the realities and memories of war and survivors of slavery, domination and aggression, peace must be man's way of life, and it must spread throughout the world. However, the Mozambique people also know that the path it is necessary to follow to gain peace is arduous. And for that reason, mixed with the natural joy we are experiencing today is our determination to defend this achievement with heightened vigilance, to step up the battle of production to overcome famine, and to press our campaign for the final liquidation of the armed bandits. These are the paths to peace.

Maputo Council To Crack Down on Fuel Hoarding
MB210828 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
 0430 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Our newsroom has received a statement from the Maputo City Executive Council saying that the Council has found Maputo residents systematically violating Ministerial Law No 2/84, which prohibits supplying gasoline and diesel fuel to any container other than a vehicle's fuel tank. Thus, an appeal has been made to all the residents of the City of Maputo, particularly the heads of residential blocks supported by the 10-family controllers and building guards, to exert strict control over such practices in order to safeguard the civic integrity of the citizens and the law in force. The Maputo City Executive Council announces, through the Directorate of Industry and Energy, that once detected, all cases of hoarding of gasoline and diesel fuel should be immediately reported to the control brigades which operate together with the Directorate of Industry and Energy by calling number 31116/7, or the nearest police station.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Rejection of RSA-Proposed Summit Hit
MB201520 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans
 13 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: "That's Great!"]

[Text] The South African proposal for a conference involving all the conflicting elements in South-West Africa/Namibia and

Angola stems from a great vision of peace which is already beginning to enjoy international support.

It has been evident for some time that a patchwork will not suffice. If the situation on the subcontinent is to change from one of conflict to one of cooperation, something meaningful must be done. And that is precisely what the South African proposal is aimed at.

If there is to be talk of peace, then peace must be the aim. A half-hearted effort is not good enough, and a partial end to the enmities is not by any means the same as creating a war-free situation. Therefore it is necessary that there be a total end to hostilities. And that is precisely what the South African proposal can lead to.

Nujoma's over-hasty rejection of the proposal indicates clearly that he has not yet understood what is meant by peace, nor how everything fits into place.

A meeting involving the MPLA and UNITA is necessary, because the Cuban issue is intimately linked to the war between the MPLA and UNITA. If this war ends, the Cubans would be superfluous in Angola and the subcontinent would be rid of this growth in its system.

South Africa wants to rid itself of its authority over South-West Africa/Namibia, but this is not possible as long as one of the parties — SWAPO — assumes sole claim to the territory. SWAPO must first abide by its status — that of a mere political organization like SWAPO-D [SWAPO-Democrats], or SWANU [South-West Africa National Union], or the Republican Party, or the Damara Council, or the South-West Africa National Party, or any other internal party.

South Africa does not need to sign a peace accord with any political party; it is not the right of any party to make war in order to achieve independence.

The primary condition is that South Africa hands over its authority to the people of South-West Africa if they themselves can decide what that independence embraces. Independence dictated by SWAPO would boil down to submission to the Russians. And that means absolutely nothing.

South-West Africa/Namibia is not an island in southern Africa; it is part of the subcontinent. Stability within itself and among its neighbors is of utmost importance for maintaining development. The same importance will be attached to every other state in the region.

All the democratic parties will agree with this. SWAPO is the only deviating factor. For this reason, it is not only the South-West Africans who will turn their backs on it; to an increasing extent it will find it is isolating itself when it becomes an irrelevant factor.

In contrast, it is the South African peace initiative which grabs the imagination, and it is the multiparty conference which is prepared to exploit its possibilities for the good of our fatherland.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha: Angolan-Cuban Statement 'Unacceptable'

*MB201840 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1836 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] Cape Town, March 20, SAPA — The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has asked for an "urgent clarification" of the Angolan Government's position following a statement issued by the Cuban and Angolan presidents in Havana yesterday. He issued a statement in Cape Town today saying it would have to be established whether the Havana statement was a repudiation of the Lusaka agreement and whether it indicated a call for the end to the activities of the Joint Monitoring Commission [JMC] by the Angolan Government.

Mr Botha said that the statement issued by President dos Santos and President Castro yesterday "starkly contradicts the spirit and letter of the Lusaka agreement and the constructive relationship which has developed in the JMC."

He referred to the final paragraph of the Havana statement as language "unacceptable to the South African Government." In the paragraph the two governments expressed their "admiration of and solidarity with the heroic struggle being waged by the peoples of Namibia and South Africa under the direction of their sole and legal representatives, SWAPO, and the African National Congress, against the disgraceful apartheid regime, and reaffirm their conviction that such a repugnant regime is historically condemned to disappear."

The minister said that if that was an accurate reflection of the Angolan Government's views it would be more consistent for it to negotiate the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola with the ANC. "If it wishes to promote a solution to the SWA question it would also be more consistent for the Luanda regime to do so with SWAPO," Mr Botha said. "If the Angolan Government is so strongly committed to solidarity with SWAPO's heroic struggle, then its current role in the JMC makes no sense. It is also evident from the statement that the Angolan Government identifies itself with SWAPO's aggression against SWA and the ANC's violent activities against South Africa," Mr Botha said.

He pointed out at a press conference where his statement was released tonight that the JMC had decided at a meeting at Cuvelai yesterday that in the light of progress made in implementing the Lusaka Agreement, the JMC would move its headquarters to Mupa. The commission's scheduled departure from Cuvelai had been delayed by, among others, the continuing presence of SWAPO in the monitored area and other violations of the Lusaka agreement.

The minister confirmed that clashes had taken place between JMC patrols and SWAPO on March 8, 11 and 12 in which eight SWAPO members and two JMC men were killed. The South Africans on the JMC were satisfied, at this stage, that adequate steps were being taken to resolve violations in terms of the Lusaka agreement, including the removal of SWAPO from the monitored area.

Mr Botha expressed South Africa's satisfaction with the cooperative relationship which had developed between the Angolan and South African components of the JMC. "South Africa's position remains that it is prepared to seek a peaceful settlement to the SWA/Namibia question on the basis of Security Council Resolution 435 within the framework of the understanding reached with the United States and the Western contact group. The one remaining issue still to be resolved is the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola, on the understanding that they will not be replaced by any other hostile forces. Firm agreement will have to be reached on the fundamental requirement of Cuban withdrawal, and a commitment will have to be obtained from the Angolan Government regarding the implementation of such an agreement," Mr Botha said.

He believed the proposal for an all-party conference would help to create the atmosphere for the resolution of the region's problems, including the withdrawal of Cuban forces. "However, before there can be any progress on these questions, the South African Government will have to obtain an urgent clarification of the Angolan Government's position, in the light of the critical situation which has been brought about by the Angolan/Cuban statement of March 19. In particular, it will have to establish whether this joint statement constitutes a repudiation of the Lusaka agreement and whether it indicates a call for an end to the activities of the JMC by the Luanda regime," Mr Botha said.

Cuban Withdrawal From Angola Seen as Open Question

*MB201610 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1500 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Station commentary: "The Cubans in Angola"]

[Text] After Nkomati it was to be expected that southern Africa's attention would turn west to obstacles there to subcontinental stability, and that Cuba's military presence in Angola would come in for increasingly critical scrutiny. The Havana statement is the outcome. What remains to be seen is whether the conditional willingness it expresses to remove the Cuban troops represents genuine accommodation to a turning tide or merely a diplomatic maneuver. Hopes of a breakthrough must be tempered by recognition that crucial questions have still to be answered.

Notable in the southern African reaction to the Nkomati accord has been the regional theme in much of it. It reflects the view that the accord opens doors to a much larger multilateral order of security and cooperation if remaining confrontation situations can be resolved on similar lines. In that view, the Lusaka agreement, providing for a disengagement of forces in southern Angola, is much more than an advance for Angola or South-West Africa. Like the treaty between South Africa and Mozambique, it also is a potential building block in a new regional order.

Thus, the nature of Soviet involvement in Angola, and in particular the presence of 25,000 Cuban surrogate troops there, reemerges as a preoccupation of southern African governments. Its submergence since the days when President Kaunda described it as the involvement of the plundering tiger and her deadly cubs had been the result not so much of changing convictions as of

capitulation to an apparent shift in the power balance. And with the present withdrawal of South African troops under supervision, even the ostensible reason for the Cuban presence was disappearing.

In the fast-changing climate, the Soviets and Cubans have found themselves at risk of growing diplomatic isolation in southern Africa. Renewed suspicions about their motives had to be pre-empted and the Havana statement is the result.

The optimists may be right. Perhaps Cuba under diplomatic pressure is indeed preparing to withdraw from Angola, but developments up to now do not support the rhetoric, and until they do it would be wise to suspend judgment.

MNR Reportedly Attacks RSA Trucks in Mozambique

MB201102 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 20 Mar 84 p 1

[By Chris Steyn]

[Text] Eight giant trucks — one a Rand 100,000 South African-registered Pantechnicon — were destroyed and their Frelimo guards killed by gunmen in an ambush near Tete at the weekend. The attack is thought to have been carried out by members of the Mozambique Resistance Movement [MNR].

Three of the truck drivers were wounded and the drivers of the eight burned out vehicles were stripped naked and robbed. Other trucks in the convoy, comprising about 50 "Juggernauts", were abandoned by their panic-stricken drivers.

The weekend attack follows an incident two weeks ago in which 14 Frelimo soldiers escorting two trucks were shot dead by MNR rebels and the trucks gutted.

Late last night it was not clear how many Frelimo soldiers had died in the ambush on Sunday. The trucks were travelling along the Zimbabwe-Tete-Mozambique route, the shortest and cheapest available to South African exporters. The only other route, through Zambia, is much longer and costs exporters up to 25 percent more.

A spokesman for the South African Foreign Trade Organisation (SAFTO) warned yesterday that using the "cheapest" route to southern African importers could result in financial loss and delay. He said exporters must look at the risks involved, and take into consideration the problems experienced by shippers in the past.

Mr Kerry Curtis, managing director of TruckAfrica, which lost a truck carrying 25 ton of tobacco in Sunday's ambush, said exporters had experienced trouble from the MNR on the Tete route over the last two years.

"The MNR's activities have hotbed up dramatically over the past two weeks since an agreement between the South African Government and the Mozambican Government to sign the Nkomati Accord," he said. Mr Curtis said the incidence of ambushes along the route had been "frequent" over the past weeks.

Rebels shot Frelimo escorts without warning, and then burned vehicles. Truck drivers were usually left unharmed...until Sunday, when three were wounded in the shootout between soldiers and the gunmen.

Mr Curtis urged exporters to use the longer, more expensive — but safer — route.

Business Leader Urges Joint Panel With Mozambique

MB210835 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The chief executive of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of South Africa, Mr Raymond Parsons, says the private sector in South Africa should consider the formation of a bilateral South African-Mozambican chamber of economic relations in the wake of the signing of the Nkomati Accord.

Mr Parsons told the Witbank Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the enormous role that business had to play in the success or otherwise of the recent developments in southern Africa. He said the economic strength of South Africa was one of the greatest assets in relations with other political and economic systems in southern Africa.

Namibian Issue Said Linked to MPLA-UNITA Talks

MB200826 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Station commentary: "Realism and UNITA"]

[Text] While the mood of realism in southern Africa prevails, there is no point in sweeping any issue under the carpet, no matter how delicate, controversial, or difficult to resolve. Such an issue is the one that has become known as the UNITA factor which, although appearing to be an internal Angolan affair, carries with it implications relevant to the entire southern African region and, in particular, South-West Africa.

One thing is certain: UNITA, one of the three political parties to whom the Portuguese handed over power when they hastily departed from Angola, has become a force to be reckoned with. Despite the best efforts of Angola's FAPLA forces, bolstered by some 30,000 Cubans, the charismatic Dr Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement is expanding its power base daily. In more than one-quarter of the country UNITA has no opposition. Its fighting force of some 35,000 men is growing at the rate of 2,000 a year; and it is capable today of waging a semiconventional war, taking it out of the category of a mere guerrilla movement.

The impact UNITA is having on the Angolan scene was recently underlined by the British minister of state responsible for Africa in the foreign office, Mr Malcolm Rifkind. Following a visit to Luanda, he remarked that the conflict in Angola had assumed the level of a substantial civil war. Today, the only remaining reason for the huge Cuban presence in Angola is the threat which UNITA poses to the MPLA government. The South African threat, as perceived by the Angolan Government, has been removed in terms of the Lusaka accord. This indicates, it goes

without saying, that the only way a Cuban withdrawal from Angola can be assured is if an accommodation can be reached between the MPLA government and Dr Jonas Savimbi.

All of which brings us to the American-inspired and South African-supported linkage between the Cuban withdrawal from Angola and the internationally acceptable independence settlement in South-West Africa. It can categorically be stated that the presence of the Cubans in Angola is the only remaining obstacle to a settlement in the territory. The United States — Western leader in the settlement negotiations — has remained unrelenting in its insistence that the Cubans withdraw. While committed to UN Resolution 435 as a means of securing independence, President Reagan has declared that a Cuban withdrawal from Angola is essential to achieving Namibian independence, as well as creating long-range prospects for peace in the region.

Elaborating on this, American chief negotiator Dr Chester Crocker posed the following question: We wonder, he said, how a young government in a fragile new state of Namibia can be expected to survive and prosper with a seemingly endless civil war on its northern border, with a substantial Soviet-Cuban presence nearby, and with the consequent prospect of a new sequence of intervention, involving perhaps both South Africa and communist forces?

Dr Jonas Savimbi himself remains firmly committed to his armed struggle, and has said that UNITA's offensive will be unrelenting and will cease only when the MPLA government enters into direct negotiations with UNITA, leading to a government of national unity in Angola. Whatever such negotiations lead to is the affair of the Angolans. But for all of southern Africa, and particularly South-West Africa, the presence of 30,000 foreign troops in Angola is both unnerving and dangerous. While realism prevails, therefore, there is an urgent need to invoke the machinery of negotiation to accommodate UNITA in the Angolan dispensation. Along that road lies the coveted prize of South-West African independence.

Gen Gleeson Discusses Defense Force Budget

*MB201630 Johannesburg International Service
in English 1500 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] The chief of staff-operations of the SADF, Lieutenant General Ian Gleeson, says the defense spending of South Africa is far lower in proportion to that of other countries which are faced with similar threats. Addressing the conference organized by the Long-Range Planning Society of Southern Africa in Johannesburg, Gen Gleeson said that despite increased military commitments the SADF budget had decreased in real terms since 1978-79. He said various factors, including economic and military strength, had lessened the pressures against South Africa. Gen Gleeson said that although the war in South-West Africa/Namibia had been long and costly, the main military operations had been fortunately restricted to the far northern areas of the territory. South Africa had made significant progress in becoming self-sufficient with regard to arms, and the armaments industry was being adapted to national security interests.

Gen Gleeson said the production of arms was already sufficient to meet the present and projected need.

Labor Party's Hendrickse on 'New Dispensation'

*MB201528 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans
1400 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] The Reverend Allan Hendrickse, the leader of the Labor Party, says the new constitutional dispensation is being viewed by his party as a new phase in the political history of South Africa in which negotiation and consensus are the order of the day. The Reverend Hendrickse was speaking at the Rand Afrikaans University, where he addressed students on his party's participation in the new constitution. He said that although the constitution does not conform with all the Labor Party demands, it is seen as a starting point. He said a negative stand towards possible development will only retard progress. He sees the new dispensation as an opportunity to negotiate with people who hold the power of the country in their hands. He said protest politics will achieve nothing.

Peace Accords No Solution to Internal Problems

*MB170830 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans
12 Mar 84 p 8*

[Editorial: "The Message of Ermelo and Nkomati"]

[Text] The sabotage attack on the fuel depot at Ermelo yesterday underlines the one truth that South Africa must not lose sight of at this time of peace initiatives in southern Africa. In essence, it is that no agreement with any neighboring state offers a solution to this country's internal problems.

That there are people here — and elsewhere in the world — who have chosen to transform these issues into violence and bloodshed at all costs has been demonstrated by yesterday's acts of sabotage. These powers of evil, whether they be the ANC, or Pan African Congress, or any other organization involved in the so-called freedom struggle in South Africa, are not interested in peace or peaceful solutions to the problems of our part of the continent.

For this reason the present peace initiatives, which reach a climax on Friday with the signing of the Nkomati Accord by South Africa and Mozambique, will cause an intensification of the tension in southern Africa.

An agreement such as this one between South African and Mozambique, the contents of which will only be made known to the world at the memorable signing ceremony, does not suit the agents of anarchy in the least, because if such an agreement is shown to be practical — as all who have an interest in a peaceful and prosperous southern Africa hope and trust — it would greatly complicate the attempts of these organizations to achieve their evil goals.

To put the situation into perspective: It would be a severe setback for the ANC if its forces were declared undesirable in Mozambique as a result of the Nkomati Accord. And, particu-

larly as there are indications that other African leaders are showing keen interest in the accord between South Africa and Mozambique, the ANC and like organizations must be fearing that the hospitality they have enjoyed in the rest of Africa thus far will come under threat on a wide front.

Hence a deed such as that of yesterday to show South Africa and the rest of the world that the struggle continues — and that the total strategy and onslaught against South Africa will not be relaxed on account of the Nkomati Accord.

South Africa's most effective answer to this is to leave no stone unturned in its search for solutions to its internal problems. Only when our own house is in order for the existence of a society free of tensions can there really be hope of a peaceful and prosperous future.

Officials To Curb Intimidation in Colored Vote

*MB210810 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 21 Mar 84*

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Mr F.W. de Klerk, says that the government will do everything possible to prevent intimidation of Colored and Indian voters in the elections to be held later this year in these two population groups. Mr de Klerk said during the third reading debate of the Electoral Act Amendment Bill in the House of Assembly that those people who intimidated the voters would be charged. The police and officials of the Department of Internal Affairs would also be present to ensure that intimidators did not worry the voters. Mr de Klerk appealed to Coloreds and Indians to grab the opportunity to take part in a democratic election by registering as voters.

The leaders of three Colored political parties have appealed to coloreds to register themselves as voters as soon as possible for the election on 22 August. The closing date for the registration of Colored voters is 30 April, and registration forms are available at political party offices, magistrate offices, municipal offices, and offices of the Department of Internal Affairs. The leader of the Labor Party, the Rev. Allan Hendrickse, says that his party is doing everything possible to register as many voters as it can. The leader of the Freedom Party, Mr Arthur Booysen, says that Coloreds must remember that only those people whose names appear on the voter's roll will be able to vote on 22 August. The possession of an identity document is not sufficient. Mr Peter Marais of the People's Congress Party says although his party is doing everything possible to register voters, misunderstandings about registration have occurred because of ignorance among Coloreds.

Rumpff Commission Meets on Swazi Land Claims

*MB201728 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] South Africa's legal representative at the Rumpff Commission, Mr Smith, says the government is convinced that if a referendum were to be held now to test feelings on the possible incorporation of KaNgwane into Swaziland, then such a referendum could not be held without intimidation taking place. The

Rumpff Commission investigating land claims concerning Ka Ngwane sat for the first time this morning in Pretoria. Mr Smith told our Pretoria news staff it was the government's viewpoint that feelings on the subject should first be calmed and that after a certain period of time had elapsed the people of Swaziland should be asked what method should be used to test reaction towards the possible incorporation.

The commissioner general for the Swazi people, Mr (Punt Janson), said this morning in evidence before the Rumpff Commission that the people of KaNgwane most definitely wanted to remain in South Africa and did not want to become citizens of Swaziland. Mr Justice Rumpff gave notice this morning that the commission was prepared to hear *in camera* evidence from anyone who wanted to speak on intimidation or any other aspect of the subject being investigated.

SWAZILAND

Finance Minister, Mfanisibili Dlamini Said at Odds

*MB190817 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English
18 Mar 84 p 6*

[Text] Grave tensions have surfaced between factions of the Swazi ruling group who only recently seized power from former Prime Minister Prince Mabandla and ex-Queen Regent Dzeliwe.

Allegations of an assassination attempt on a leading government minister, and corruption in high places in a R30-million financial scandal, are being used in the latest Swazi power-play.

There are also signs of discontent among some army and police units — five of whose top officers were recently "retired" in a security purge — and ordinary Swazis are becoming cynical and hostile to the renewed tension within their leadership.

The kingdom also faces a serious economic crisis, of which the most recent cause is the devastating visit of Cyclone Domoina — which caused more than R50-million damage to the country's economy.

The main contenders in the new power-play are Swazi Finance Minister Sishayi Nxumalo and powerful Likoqo member Prince Mfanisibili Dlamini. Nxumalo, who only a year ago was being discounted by political observers as a spent force, has made a dramatic comeback. Last week, he made skillful use of a sensational R30-million financial scandal to cast himself in the mould of a dauntless fighter against corruption — and move against Prince Mfanisibili's allies.

Both are highly ambitious men with their sights set on the top job in Swaziland's complicated government system.

Whereas Prince Mfanisibili draws his power base from his royal connections and the country's hardline traditionalists, Nxumalo has a reputation as a clever businessman and financial manager closely aligned to the kingdom's small commercial base.

Nxumalo told parliament the collapse of a major local employment creator, Swaziland Chemical Industries, had been caused

by corruption and mismanagement in "high political places". SCI, which owes R30-million to local banks, is staring liquidation in the face. And Nxumalo claimed local bank managers had been threatened with the withdrawal of their residence permits unless they granted further loans to save the company.

Nxumalo said SCI had been "riddled with shady deals" — a thinly-veiled reference to a leading member of the Ligoqo and a major ally of Mfanisibili who had dealings with SCI. The man is being identified as the target of Nxumalo's remarks. Nxumalo also told parliament he believed some people were trying to get rid of him because of what he claimed was his determination to stamp out corruption. In one incident, he said, logs had been placed on a road on which he was travelling, in an apparent bid to assassinate him. He did not indicate who he thought was responsible.

Political observers are not yet predicting an open declaration of war between the two factions. But, said one this week: "something must give soon."

Israeli Envoy, Foreign Affairs Adviser Meet Mnisi

*MB210859 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to the Kingdom of Swaziland, accompanying the special adviser to the Israeli minister of foreign affairs, today met the minister without portfolio, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, at Government House during a courtesy call. During his call, the special adviser expressed his government's sincere condolence to the government of the Kingdom of Swaziland following the recent cyclone which left a number of people dead and others homeless. The special adviser told the minister that Israel's President Herzog could not come to Swaziland because of the visit to Israel of West German Chancellor Kohl. The special adviser to the Israeli minister of foreign affairs also talked at length about the forthcoming OAU summit conference to be held in Conakry, Guinea.

In response to the Israeli envoy's speech, the minister without portfolio thanked the Israeli Government for the various forms of technical assistance Swaziland receives from that country, and expressed his hope that the existing friendly relations between the two sister states could grow from strength to strength.

ZAMBIA

Mobutu Sese Seko Sends Message to Kaunda

*MB201912 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] President Kaunda tonight said regional or global problems could only be effectively solved through discussion. Speaking when he received a special message from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko through that country's secretary of state for international cooperation, Mr Dulia Lengema, at State House, Dr Kaunda said problems of whatever magnitude should be solved through discussion at various levels. The president said

although Zaire and Zambia had experienced problems with each other, this was normal because the two could not hold identical views on all issues.

Kaunda Calls for Meeting

*MB210727 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 21 Mar 84*

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has said that regional or global problems can only be solved effectively through discussions. Dr Kaunda was speaking when he received a special message from Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, delivered to State House by Zaire's secretary of state for international cooperation, Mr Lengema Dulia. The president said that problems of whatever magnitude could be solved through discussions at various levels. He pointed out that although Zambia and Zaire had experienced problems with each other, this could be regarded as normal since the two could not hold identical views on all issues. He added: Wherever there are two people there are always two approaches to problems. President Kaunda also said that it was necessary for the two heads of state to meet and find the solutions to remaining problems following the solving of some problems affecting the two countries by their Zambia-Zaire permanent commission. The failure to meet would merely worsen the existing problems. In reply the Zairean minister, who was accompanied to State House by the foreign affairs minister of state, Mr Ottema Muskua, noted that Dr Kaunda and President Mobutu shared similar views.

ZIMBABWE

Shamuyarira: Many More Mass Graves Remain

*MB210736 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT
21 Mar 84*

[Text] A number of people, including former members of the colonial regime and the military, have responded to the government's appeal for information about mass graves of former combatants. The minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, told a local newspaper last night that information from the people has led the government to believe that the recently uncovered mass graves in Rusape are part of many more elsewhere in the country. The minister appealed to the public to give money for the reburial of the combatants. He said the funds should [word indistinct] through his ministry. The burials will be organized by the government. The minister also expressed the hope that more people will come forward with information.

District Governors Program 'System of Oppression'

*MB190548 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English
to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 18 Mar 84*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Thousands of starving Mozambicans have settled into Zimbabwe's eastern border region, and we are led to believe that thousands more are on the way. After three bad harvests and the

winter coming, it is a safe bet that Zimbabweans in the region will be no better off soon than their Mozambican cousins. We know that the regime likes to make great play with the excuse that it is the fault of the Mozambique rebels that these people have fled, but again, it is a lie. The vast majority of the Mozambican refugees have never seen a member of Mozambique National Resistance, and probably have not even heard of them. But they have lived with Mozambican communist policies for nearly 10 years, and they have suffered the total collapse of those policies. Marxist socioeconomic policies have failed in every single country in which they have been adopted, and Mozambique is no exception.

But Mugabe plows ahead with the same inane policies, and like Mozambique, his country will go the same way because of these policies. Recently, Mugabe admitted openly that the Mozambican system of district governors and staffs would be implemented in Zimbabwe. This system of oppression will be a huge and costly exercise, for which the money will have to be borrowed at high interest from overseas.

A case in point, but once again party political expediency and the grab for power has overridden economic prudence at a time when starvation looms in Zimbabwe.

Departing U.S. Ambassador's Remarks Ridiculed

MB200905 (Clandestine) *Radio Truth in English*
0430 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] One of the most astonishing articles to catch our eye recently is featured in the *FINANCIAL GAZETTE* of 17 February. In it, the departing U.S. ambassador expounds in great

detail about his term of office. He really must have intentions of returning some day, as he says the most ridiculous things a 10-year-old child could dispute. He was obviously wearing his rose-colored spectacles when he said this, and I quote: The utilization of United States aid by Zimbabwe has been remarkable, not only for the appropriate use to which it has been put, but also for the rapid translation of plans to reality. This has been due to many unique features that Zimbabwe has, compared to most other developing nations. These are an honest and efficient civil service, a sensible sense of development priority, and a diverse and vigorous private sector.

What a laugh. What about the 90 million dollar drought aid that coolly disappeared, for a start? The rapid translation of plans to reality as applied to our government really means now-you-see-it, now-you-don't type tactics at which our trustworthy ministers are so adept. How can such an experienced man be so gullible? Is he seeking some reward from President Reagan for a supposed successful term of office?

Commenting on the recent cut in U.S. aid to Zimbabwe, Mr Keeley conceded that Zimbabwe's voting in the United Nations had been a factor which affected the reduction. It did lose the country favorable advocates, which allows those who have little sympathy for Zimbabwe to have a greater effect on the final decision. That is known as real diplomatic pussyfooting.

Apparently Mr Keeley hopes to write a book on his experiences in Uganda during the Idi Amin period. He says: I believe I have something to say about that particular era in Uganda's history without hurting too many feelings, I hope. He added that he regards writing as a creative hobby, quote, although I have intended to concentrate on fiction up to now. You can say that again, Mr Keeley. Let's hope the next ambassador will be a realist.